



Elisha Cuthbert
PUCK-BUNNY
BLOGGER
P. 62

SADDAM
FARCE
P.11

THE MASSES
ARE SINGING
SOMEONE CALL
KARL MARX P.56

Reset your
clocks.
It's really
A.D. 963.
P. 68

MACLEAN'S

19-26
DEC.
2005

www.macleans.ca

SVEND HIM PACKING

Will the voters of Vancouver Centre please
do the rest of Canada a favour? P.4

\$4.95

51



PAUL
MARTIN IS
UNBELIEVABLE P.22



Available in these exterior colours:



MOONSTONE



SAGE STORM



BLUE CHIP



SILVER GREEN



RED LINE



WHITE DIAMOND



THE 2006 CADILLAC SRX Even the paint finishes reflect its natural habitat. Beneath its rugged exterior is a cabin that's as luxurious as it is utilitarian, with ample seating for seven, or 69.5 cu. ft. of interior space. Powered by an available 4.6L Northstar VVT engine and AWD. Call 1-888-446-2000 or visit gmcanada.com



CADILLAC SRX
BIGGER THOUGHTS



Scotia Partners Portfolios[®] The really simple way to diversify.

When it comes to investing, one of the best things you can do is diversify, or spread your money around. Scotia Partners Portfolios combine mutual funds from up to seven leading fund companies in one investment and remove all the work and concern about investment choices and asset mix. It's a simple and convenient way to minimize risk while maximizing growth potential. To learn more visit your local branch or scotiabank.com/partners

Scotia Partners Portfolios



MacKenzie
INVESTMENTS

Fidelity
FUND INVESTMENTS

Scotia Mutual Funds

Scotiabank Group[™]

The Scotiabank Group refers to Scotia Securities Inc. ® Registered trademarks of The Bank of Nova Scotia. ® All trademarks and logos of the mutual fund companies are their property. Scotia Securities Inc. is an authorized user. ® AIM, the chevron logo and all associated trademarks are trademarks of A.I.M. Management Group Inc., used under license. ® Fidelity Investments and all associated trademarks are trademarks of Fidelity Investments. ® Fidelity Investments is a registered trademark of Fidelity Investments Inc. ® Fidelity Investments is a registered trademark of Fidelity Investments Inc. Scotia Mutual Funds are offered by Scotia Securities Inc., a corporate entity separate from, although wholly-owned by The Bank of Nova Scotia. Commissioners, trailing commissions, management fees and expenses may be associated with mutual fund investments. Please read the prospectus before investing. Copies are available through all branches of The Bank of Nova Scotia, Montreal Trust, Scotiabank and Trust, National Trust, ScotiaMcLeod, ScotiaMcLeod Direct Investing, and authorized independent dealers. Mutual funds are not guaranteed or insured, their values change frequently and past performance may not be repeated.

THIS WEEK

COLUMNS

11 Barbara Amiel
In political trials, theories and innuendo are not considered—they're a defense strategy. In Baghdad, Saddam Hussein is playing this game well.

12 Peter Mansbridge
Communist studies suggest that reform debates are turning points in the election campaign. The truth is, it rarely happens that way.

NATIONAL

22 He's unbeatable!
Is there an end to Paul Martin's grand pronouncements and full of holes commitments? Talk about politics expertise.

26 O come, all ye faithful
A new Maclean's survey says it will take a Christmas miracle for Stephen Harper's Conservative to win over Ontario.

27 The Harper hop
Analysis of recent newspaper reports show that while Paul Martin has taken some hits, the Tory leader's message is getting across loud and clear.

28 Seved Robison redux
His decision to run landscape Jack Layton, not his own career, and maybe a world of personal heart to why he did it.

32 Lights, camera, action
As with the NHL, federal debate opponents are hoping new rules will generate some much needed buzz for this week's TV showdown.

WORLD

35 What about Haiti?
Bono put Africa first and center. But given Canada's aid and recent history, we should spend our foreign aid closer to home.

Julie the conversation Which issues are you paying attention to during the election? Visit our reader forum: www.macleans.ca/forum.
"Mile Per Hour" work Listen to NDP Leader Jack Layton discuss getting his platform in this radio Q&A: www.macleans.ca/sonnenschein.
An unlikely muse How accurate is the popular German idiom author Caroline Fuchs (*The Thief Lord*)? www.macleans.ca/fuchs.

MACLEAN'S

VOLUME 39 NUMBER 52 DECEMBER 19, 2004 • \$10.00 • SINCE 1908

4 FROM THE EDITORS • 8 MAIL BAG • 15 SEVEN DAYS
18 INTERVIEW: DEBORAH COVENE talks to Linda Fries



DECEMBER 19-26, 2005

THE BACK PAGES

54 NEWSMAKERS
Paul Gillingham, Rick Warren, Molly Parker and Robert Lortie...

56 ARTS
Celli Karl Herz: The means of production have changed hands.

61 TV
Patron launch translates the 100th episode to Lake Winnipeg.

62 SPORTS
An NHL, bagmouth and a puck-bunny start—its loss.

63 TASTE
Vitamins-enriched junk foods: everything bad is good for you.

64 BAZAAR
When your hotel is so chic, you've got to have everything in it.

66 HELP
The Top 10 reasons women have trouble sticking to their diets.

68 BOOKS
Set your clock back. A math whiz says the year is actually 983.

69 RESUME
Whether the semi-sweet TV specials of Christmas are!

71 RECOMMENDED LIST
Arcade Fire's new video, Japanese rollers, toaster bags.

72 THE END
Laura Arbery, 1972-2004.

COVER PHOTO BY JASON LEBLANC, STYLING BY JENNIFER DUNN

MACLEANS.CA

WORLD (continued)

38 The enemy next door
By leaving Syria's politics, the Lebanese made history. But with the murder of Lebanon's former PM still unresolved, peace remains elusive.

BUSINESS

40 A new deal
WTO talks for a new global trade pact are in the break of collapse, threatening to widen the gap between rich and poor. Canada is party to blame.

42 David Cox
Canada's stock market mirrors the global economy more closely than most assets. What does it mean for Canadians when international markets slip?

SCIENCE

47 Variable outlook
Climateologist David M. Legler's research shows that global warming has led to a call for the most credible science on weather. Others say it's Canada's own climate.

HEALTH

48 I hate my thighs
Defenders of body dysmorphic disorder (BDD) are continually asking to alter new weight or imaginary imperfections.

HOME

50 Super sanity saver
Commercial anxiety-busters are the newest thing for busy North American men who must find their families "toxic" again.

SOCIETY

52 Fooled for love
Lawrence's latest against two U.S. Internet dating services suggest that cyber is worth of love may have a new face for romance date fraud.



Let's Svend him packing

Last year, several Robinson's keepers, Clayton Bailey, explained that his client's theft of \$21,500 ring was, in essence, a "try for help." Bailey's arguments were successful and his client got off with a conditional discharge. Now Robinson is back, once again seeking a seat in the House of Commons. It's our turn to cry for help.

"I can actually be a better Member of Parliament and certainly a better person," Roberson tells Maclean's in an interview about his desire to return to public life (page 28). But we are wholly unconvinced that Roberson is a changed man, or that his return to Ottawa is the best interests of Canadian voters.

Despite his office for grandmasters and public affairs he served 24 years in MP for *Itzehaya*. B.C.—Robinson has never shown much respect for the law or the conventions of Parliament. He sent \$750 for his car to an anti-logging blockade in the Queen's Park (see below). He embarrassed himself and earned a reprimand from his leader, Bill Broadbent, by leading US President Ronald Reagan to the wrong restaurant in 1982. In 1990 he won a court order prohibiting the collection of forestry payments on Chippewas' land brought him a two-week jail sentence for criminal contempt in 1991. That same year he won the illegal arrest charges of Sam Redington and attended a pre-conviction to obtain it. In 1999, NDP leader Alexa McDonough dismissed him from the backbenches for preferring to have the word "Q" scribbled from the preamble of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms*. In 2000, he played the mad that traded with police during the Quebec City fire-rings riot. In 2003, he resigned as NDP forestry policy director making inappropriate remarks about the state of Israel. The next year he

Yet however much he believes in a law unto himself, Robinson has been quick to appeal to the justice system when it suits his purposes. After being mistreated and having his

peers ripped in Quebec City, he encouraged anyone who had been "illegally arrested" to sue the RCMP. This year he received \$18,600 for "general damages, pain and suffering" from the Mounties on a lawsuit. He also sued a newspaper that ridiculed his performance at the Quebec summit. He is currently suing a Vancouver radio station for comments made on air.

Is it too much to ask that a Canadian legislator serves and upholds the law in all circumstances, not picking and choosing when to play by the rules? Yes, principled dissent is fine. Civil disobedience, too, has its place. But that's not what Solomons is about. He's a self-aggrandizing liar with a disdain for parliamentary and judicial institutions.

Passages for also doubting Robinson's handling of the ring itself. He turns himself in to the authorities only after the deed has been caught on tape. He regrets his decision, admits a guilty plea but argues that a mental illness and the effect of a 1987 kidney accident made the incident less a choice than a cry for help (he was fit for the NDP deputy, House leader in '93). This judge gives a conditional discharge, meaning Robinson does not have a criminal record. It is given a year's probation and ordered to continue psychiatric treatment and perform 100 hours of community work. The moment his probation is over, Robinson declares his mental illness back under control and talks of a political comeback. Under arrest in '94, Ready for Parliament in '95, WFL announces *former suspect*.

The presence of Sverdrup Robinson in an election that has government ethics as a key issue is a blight on the New Democratic Party and an insult to the public at large. The voters of Vancouver Centre are obviously free to elect whomever they please. We trust there to reward Robinson's opportunism for what it is and make a stand for higher standards of political, ethical, and legal behaviour. In other words, to send him packing. **M**

MACLEAN'S

[illegible]

Mackay's Self-Service Service

SEE THE NEW
Building tomorrow's new business
Data Services Division
www.ibm.com/cas/ibmdata

IT COSTS
1-866-NET-PLAN
Or call 1-800-IBM
In Toronto: (416) 249-3555

OFFICE SUPPLIES
Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Toll-free 1-800-IBM-4444

[illegible]

Customer Care Services:

- Subscribe to entire year subscription
- Change your mailing address
- Check your account status
- Report delivery problems

- Disadvantage: payment must be up
- Give the official advertisement
- Have the primary policy
- Disadvantage: early-date
- Pay your invoice
- Learn about the (Kaufmann's) business strategy
- Sign as the (Kaufmann's) - owner
- Knowledge about the (Kaufmann's)

Mid-preflexion.
When I'm up there, when you
disarm me, I'll disarm you. I'm
not committed to submission
until I'm almost prostrate. A
submission might be all I
get. It was said that was the

Frequent-flyer-reading
Subscribers who do not make a return flight will still get the same issues of *Skyscraper* as those who do. As for those who do fly, we'll be sure to get you the most current and relevant travel news.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING...DONE!



For the first time ever,
Oprah reveals her
thoughts and feelings
about the biggest
moments and interviews
in 20 years of
history-making television.

Chapters Indigo
chapters.indigo.ca

The Perfect Gift for Everyone on Your List.
AVAILABLE ON DVD

FOR THE BENEFIT OF

Angel



Summary

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

SONY

WHERE THERE IS BEAUTY THERE IS JEALOUSY. It's tough to admit, but nothing comes close to the new Sony BRAVIA LCD TV. With stunning design, a strikingly slim shape and a true-to-life

High-Definition picture, it offers the best LCD TV experience anywhere - period. You'll love everything about BRAVIA. Just be careful who you share it with. BRAVIA. You'll watch it the same but see it differently.

BRAVIA



For further information about BRAVIA, please visit the website www.sony.com/bravia or visit sonystyle.co.uk/bravia

©2006 Sony Electronics Inc. Sony is a registered trademark of Sony Corporation.

like.no.other™



'I can't understand how one ounce of positive change can come from trashing Bono, Stephen Lewis and David Suzuki. Kyoto is not perfect, but we must start somewhere.'

from impaired driving. The 0-05 percent BAC solution we present is based on empirical evidence, supported by experts in this country and around the world, and has been proven to be effective in saving lives and preventing injury. Modern's slight of MAUD Cassels and distance of 0.05 percent BAC does a disservice to this important policy debate on more effective impaired driving laws. *Karen Davidson, National President, MADD Canada, Oakville, Ont.*

Those advocating criminalization as an approach to safety may be well meaning, but they are completely misguided. Most Canadians do not realize that two levels of government divided the impaired driving problem. Most provinces and territories already impose administrative license suspension on drinking drivers. You have a BAC of 0.05 (or 0.08 in Saskatchewan), you automatically lose your licence for anywhere from four to 24 hours. These suspensions protect the public by temporarily incapacitating a dangerous driver off the road, and give those drivers a warning. They are an effective tool in the fight against impaired driving, in part because they are imposed and certain consequences. This federal Criminal Code is applied at BACs of 0.08 and over. Making conduct criminal is not a policy of sound reasoning. A criminal conviction, be it for armed robbery or for driving with a BAC over 0.08, limits travel and job opportunities for the rest of the offender's life. Justifiably, the legal process to charge and convict is an intricate and costly. The Canada Safety Council is recommending that all provinces and territories adopt a uniform BAC limit. As your article rightly points out, high-BAC drivers—many of whom choose alcohol and drugs—pose a danger to themselves. Many already drive at BAC twice the current legal limit; their behaviour will not be changed by a lower criminal limit. *Danly Thorne, President, Canada Safety Council, Ottawa*

Excellent article on the MADD issue in Canada. The 0-05 BAC limit is a solid piece of legislation that should never find footing in your great country. *Sam Parr Wapp, Fishers, Ind.*

Science and emotion
I can't understand how one ounce of positive change can come from the trashing of Bono, Stephen Lewis and David Suzuki ("Three



DRINKING OFFENDERS and those who are alcohol dependent: now cause more of the harm?

creative ways to save the world." World, Dec. 5). If *Steven Stone* Much had left his home town, he would have made the case so difficult: consider that CO₂ emissions are the key to all the other pollutants. Both sulphur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxide (NO_x) are released into the environment when you burn fossil fuels. Therefore, if we reduce CO₂, we successfully reduce SO₂ and NO_x. The Kyoto accord may not solve all of our problems, but we must start somewhere. *Scott Armstrong, Toronto*

Maish points out that the most dramatic effect of climate change would be close to the equator and that Canada might actually benefit from a higher temperature. It is even more of the already significant environmental impacts on some people's traditional lifestyles and the fact that these regions actually warm more quickly than anywhere else in the world. How do the potential of tropical diseases such as malaria spreading to other parts of the world? World? Canadians be engaged if the Gulf Stream starts to flow north as a result of melting sea levels leading to a permanent ice age? Furthermore, the suggestion that reducing per capita meat would be a better approach is irresponsible. There are two different issues entirely with per capita meat: reduction to improve human health and CO₂ reduction to limit climate change. *Guy Taylor, Waterloo, Ont.*

Hallowed hybrids
Now article's gleeful attempt to debunk hybrid is flat out wrong as its assertion that

lower mileage is only attained when driving under 50 km/h. ("Hybrids suck gas," *Business Week*, Dec. 5). I routinely average between 4.5 litres/100 km and 5.0 litres/100 km on the highway with my 2000 Prius. Now let's even the road course close to that kind of mileage. But your analysis in regards other factors. First, no car gets the mileage the dealership claims. But more importantly, the prime environmental difference is not only reduced reduced fuel consumption, but second reduced emissions. Most people don't pay the extra \$5,000 to \$12,000 for a hybrid because they want to live a better life. They pay the extra money to reduce the impact on the world around them. *Steven Horak, Toronto*

Spoiled rotten
After reading your article on spoiled children ("Steven models," *News*, Nov. 21 and "Elting living baby," *News*, Nov. 28), I want to tell how many parents can really buying Gator or Versace clothing for an infant? The child does not know he or she is wearing designer clothes and simply does not care. People are starving all over this world and yet we are dressing babies in designer clothes? In the news decorating story, you write about a 17-year-old girl spending \$1,000 on her room. What is in that room, a bar with a full-time bartender and a DJ? Don't get me started on the 14-year-old who wants a Japanese-style bed, women with artificial thighs. I wish their parents didn't have kids. In this world, all of us are going to really pay for the lack of parenting. *Rita Fahrens, Erie, Pa.*

A farce, starring Saddam



BARBARA AMIEL

Contributors can provide editorial advice. This is their description.

In the afternoon, the defendant was "chained hand and foot to a metal chair. A jug of urine was in his mouth."

"The following morning, soon the first gag had proved ineffective and the reading of the charges had been delayed. [the defendant] was brought to court strapped to a wooden chair. The gag was supplemented by another which passed under his chin... Under the gag his mouth was taped."

"The following morning the gag was further strengthened by an elastic bandage and [the] mouth was stuffed with one inch of cotton..." (*Jason Epstein, The New York Review of Books*)

Not a trial in Saddam's U.S.S.R., but *Chicago, 1968*. The defendant was *Black Panther Bobby Seale*, charged in the *Chicago Seven* with conspiracy to incite a riot. This was a political trial, and Seale was behaving in the only way defendants can behave in such trials. Political defendants must demonstrate that courts are not above the fray and that the judges are not referees but arbiters. Consider the usual dignity of the justice system and the defendant's loss. It's only hope is to turn the trial into a farce. Forcing the judge to gag you or preferably remove you from the courtroom are normal defence tactics.

As political agitator, Seale went on trial under all the circumstances, assault, attempted murder and murder, but his convictions were for contempt of court. Not bad, considering some 10 years later he admitted that the *Black Panthers* were guilty of extortion and homicide.

Political trials occur in most countries. Canada's treatment of *Hudson's Bay* *James Zundel*, prosecuted for his political beliefs, began deception. Zundel was filled with hate. He could have hated some currently homeless target like WAFS with impunity, but instead he hated Jews. Bad choice—at least for the time being. Unlike Seale, he recognized the legitimacy of the Canadian courts. Twenty years of persecution followed, including severe proceedings, incarceration and last spring, deportation. Zundel's case is a textbook example of how a decent country can do foul things to a foul one.

Saddam Hussein, now on trial in Baghdad, is a monster you know the game. He cheats and lectures the judge. So far, chief judge *Ragab M. Al-Rasheed* has thrown him out, so Saddam threw the judge out by boycotting the court, giving his con-

sciously empty chair a photo opportunity.

If every trial is a bit of theatre, Saddam's high face. Sitting on the bench are judges who belong to the factions he murdered and oppressed. This is victor's justice, complete with an impartial Christian script. Judge *James*: "We believe, we ask you to wear down your identity, your name, occupation and address and then we will allow you to talk. Now is time to write down your name." The question is repeated:

"Who are you? What is your identity?" A judge cannot rely on personal knowledge.

Several questions about the accused's name, address and occupation are simply rituals in ordinary trials. In Saddam's, they are sacred. The more sacred the proceedings become, the further the trial goes from its admirable purpose of establishing facts before arriving at a moral conclusion—and then an equitable disposition of the case.

Truth propounding to judge the behaviour of the defendant side is not the action of a sophisticated head of state, can't be held with

So far the chief judge hasn't thrown him out, so Saddam threw the judge out

equity. Integrity becomes a charade when anyone judges that old ancient. Establishing that the accused himself has carried out measures is usually impossible. Courts fail on proving that same rule of law has been breached, while in all probability the judges have breached rules—often the same rules—as well.

One must be a friend to the International Criminal Court in The Hague with its international judges appointed by the UN, but especially one who is the confidant. After all, the president of the UN's International Court of Justice, *Shaw*, is used to "reflect the will of nations of civilization and the principle legal systems of the world" at the *San Juan* of *Chavez*. A big power, highly evolved judicially.

Former *Hague* president *Shelomo Milov* was indicted for war crimes in 1999. His choice trial is going on its fourth year at the *Hague*. Meanwhile, the "refugee" *Saddam* of *Saddam* in *Youssef* goes untried. This may be in the nature of things, but as the proceedings are not justice.

A Saddam is said to be doing his best to be, throw to mobs, or left to God. Instead, we supply those men and give them one last look at our law. By giving them a chair to mock and do not our procedures we let them drop the edifice of law and equity down into the primal slush with them. It

JOIN THE MACLEAN'S ADVISORY PANEL

HAVE YOUR SAY

Help shape the future of our magazine and website. Join the Maclean's Advisory Panel and tell us what you think.

SIGN UP TODAY
maclean's.ca/nap

Your participation will be kept strictly confidential and our communications with you will never be sold or subscription-oriented.

MACLEAN'S



THE #1 NATIONAL
BESTSELLER

and
WINNER
OF THE SCOTTIAMC
GILLER PRIZE

DAVID
BERGEN
THE TIME IN BETWEEN

"The best fiction yet to
confront and comprehend
the legacy of Vietnam."

Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

"Erotic and hypnotic...
Deeply moving."

Miriam Toews

"Ravishingly told...
A huge accomplishment."

Michael Ondaatje

"Astonishing."

Globe and Mail

SCOTTIAMC & STEWART
100 Celebrating 100 years

Reading group guide available at
www.scottduncan.com/bookclubs

Politicians. Debating. Yay.



PETER MARQUARDT

In assigned positions, looked into the camera, and said, "I just want to say hello to all my friends in Kootenai-Surefoot county [his mispronunciation]." It turned out to be the most interesting bit in what was the first televised debate ever held during a Canadian federal election campaign. The year was 1968, and the leader was René Gauthier of the Créditistes. His late walk onto the debate floor was a coup: no one wanted out by the TV networks and the four parties with seats in the House of Commons; they had concluded that in the two-hour debate, Gauthier deserved a place only in the final 45 minutes. Trouble was, those first 45 minutes were so dreary, even the other leaders—Pierre Trudeau, Robert Stanfield and Tommy Douglas—stood as if they were almost ready to nod off.

The tension, hyped as the "Great Debate" but reviewed as the "Great Bore," was supposed to match the drama of the televised John F. Kennedy-Richard Nixon clashes of the 1960 U.S. presidential campaign. In their first debate, Nixon had walked onstage to the first music, a statue that began to creak within minutes as tiny heads of sweat appeared on his unpowdered forehead. No one remembers much about what either candidate said, but they remembered the presiding, an exemplar of the power—some would say the shallowness—of television.

But on each occasion of dullness, or of silence, made up for by the heavy books from their 1968 session. In fact, the debate was judged to dull that no more debates were deemed needed in the next two elections. But times have changed. This week, for the seventh election in a row, there will be televised exchanges. A certain conventional wisdom has emerged: debates are turning points in a campaign, and they provide those special combative moments that can turn defeat into victory or vice versa. The truth is, it rarely happens that way. Remember last year's exercise? I mean, beyond the yelling and screaming, what do you really remember? Honestly, in fact, most Canadians probably have to go back to Brian Mulroney's 1984 "You had an option" moment with John Turner to pull a debate quote out of the memory bank, although Turner had a bit of a come-back four years later when he nailed Mulroney in free trade. Now those were debates.

In 1968, more than nine million Canadians tuned in to that first televised debate, and since then, even though the population and the number of TV sets have both increased dramatically, the number of viewers has been dropping. Last year, even by generous estimates, the combined audience was somewhere near the 1968 number.

So what about the 2005-2006 debates? Are we going to remember them 20 years from now? The odds would suggest so, but it's noteworthy that everyone has agreed the old format hasn't worked to engage viewers and interesting discussions. And so there have been changes. First, for those who believe more is better, there will be two sets of debates, the first in Vancouver, and then in early January, a second in Gatineau, Que. There are two other noticeable changes: no panel of journalists, and no universal open microphones. Leaving the journalists in perhaps a slight nod to a profession that assumes microphones are crucial to understanding the political dynamic in the country, but there's a reason no one's

The first 30 minutes were so dreary, even the leaders acted as if they were ready to nod off

complained—for years the debates, and the arguments about who should what and who else named the "game" into a predictable, and often wooden, element of the evening.

Leaving the questions to the hands of one moderator should make things smoother, and more productive. Keeping all the rules closed except that of the person talking is a stricter proposal. It will cut down on those impulsive moments when one or more people are speaking at once, but it also runs the risk of eliminating the potential "momentum." If Turner's microphone had been the only one open during that memorable 1984 exchange, Mulroney's "option" remark might have been but a distant memory, and who knows—the voter's decision of that year might have been different.

But in the end, it's likely that the format, location or audio technology that determines whether a debate is worthwhile—it's the willingness of the party leaders to honestly explain and defend their positions and their policies. Forty-five years after the Kennedy-Nixon exchanges, everyone knows the routine—leaders take days off before the debate to go through mock exchanges with staff. They try out lines to attack and defend, some even use focus groups to see what works and what doesn't, with the result that they enter the debate with little chance of being surprised. For good or ill, that has become the way of the politics of our time. ■

SOME SEE
A HOP

SOME SEE A PRICELESS INGREDIENT



SEE HOW BEER IS MEANT TO TASTE



TO DO BUSINESS INTERNATIONALLY,
YOU'LL NEED SOMEONE WHO HAS THEIR PAPERS IN ORDER.



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO IRAN'S PRESIDENT AND THE GLOBE; THE POST OFFICE GETS THAT CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

GOOD NEWS

Level-headed Jack

Jack Layton's 2005 campaign platform is more sensible than any in the recent history of the New Democratic Party. There are no dramatic depictions from last year's document: a promise of no new taxes of any kind, and support for the Cherry Act. He's brought forward a strong package of climate and ethical reforms. He is also committed to fixing public health care while allowing private care to operate without regulations (and without public money). Even Layton's call for parliamentary debate on an increased Canadian presence in Afghanistan is welcome—he at least wants to talk about it, unlike his competitors.

Out of the closet

The *Lean, the Witch and the World* opened to good reviews. After all the handwringing about the religious subtext, the film's plot (pornage, it was the C.S. Lewis book).

Cheers!

While much Canadian news is the Midwestern Bay City and the Fairmont hotel chain may soon fall into foreign hands, at least one national heavyweight will remain in the family. Last week, three holders of Canada's Vinco International, one of the world's top 10 wine producers, rejected a US\$45-million hostile takeover bid by New York state-based rival Constellation Brands, to the delight of company executives and patriotic wine enthusiasts. Based in Mississippi, Ore., Vinco manages operations in the U.S., Australia and New Zealand. Investors include Ironbridge, Jude von Sling and several Cretes.

Short train running

CN has been ordered to limit the size of its trains on a two-way

stretch of track in the mountains of British Columbia after a recent spate of accidents, derailments, and a serious chemical spill. The maximum length for trains will now be 80 cars, down from as many as 125. The limits were as welcome news to concerned environmentalists—to say nothing of drivers stuck at level rail-road crossings.

The Globe spins

To start last week, Toronto's *Globe and Mail* accepted its own political leanings by overselling a blip in the polls with the alarm headline—“Liberal's Slipping in Ontario.” The following day it buried deep on an inside page the more reliable finding that 61 percent of Canadians find Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin the most

likely to be moved from the Middle East to Europe. (So the concern that a Nazi genocide against Jews did occur, he reasoned, it was Europe's responsibility, not Germany or Austria should play host to the Zionists. Here's, the U.S., Britain and the United Nations responded with immediate condemnations of the British leader. Canada didn't.



ARMAND LEBLANC / GETTY IMAGES

There was no Holocaust, and all Zionists should just move to Germany

J.C. superstamp

Canada Post has caught the true spirit of Christmas: the true spirit of Christmas. For the first time, it is selling both religious and secular holiday stamps. Some will depict nativity scenes, others a woman. Since 1,319 counsels of the Catholic Women's League had been lobbying Ottawa for a stamp that depicted Jesus's birth. The post office in said its decision was not under pressure. Different people, said a Canada Post spokesman, welcome “different aspects” of the holiday. “Canada Post is a business,” she added, “and it is a smart business to please both camps.”

Iran's mush-mouth

The man who once called for Israel to be “helped off the map” is acting. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad denied the historical reality of the Holocaust and mocked those who even open it. He further argued that

Let it be, already

Atlantic Canada is in danger of being overrun by do-gooder celebrities. A bass player for the garage band Nitrova recently endorsed a P.E.I. plan to institute proportional representation (voters decided against any electoral changes). Paul McCartney has written to Paul Martin to put Canada “on notice” over our real issues. And now French actress Béatrice Dalle has renounced her title, too, to oppose the ban. “I will never rise up,” she proclaimed. Our government should consider would prefer proportional representation of Miss Dalle to all this protesting. **M**

THE WEEK AHEAD: TOXINS, TALKS AND TORONTO

The Saugham River toxic spill in March has been expected to reach the Hamilton frontier. The Chinese have been planning to build a dam to contain the massive hazardous effluent and have apologized to Moscow. Meanwhile, the McGuinty government is introducing the City of Toronto Act in the Ontario legislature, aimed at giving the metropolis more control over its affairs. And world trade talks open in Hong Kong, intended to break a deadlock over agricultural subsidies.

Catholic and diocese declared last week. "The night-vision approach to a Holy Scripture is not by pulling your pants down."

Thunder down under

"There may be technology needed with emissions from the industrial and energy sectors, but we have not yet found ways to stop them and cheap from doing what comes naturally," said David Parker, New Zealand's minister responsible for climate change issues, at a week-long climate-change conference in Montreal.

KIDS TODAY

Bar-code bat

A Colorado teen used bar codes on his home computer and stored them on grocery electronics in stores, buying an iPod on the system that cost US\$149 for just \$4.99. Jonathan Baldino, 19, was arrested on theft charges last week and later self-penned a police statement begging to be released. "I'm only a kid," he wrote, "help me out." Baldino, according to police, didn't even buy the computer program that produced the bar codes.

MONEY

Stem-cell bank

Pierabout \$2,500 a European organization offers to store babies' umbilical cord stem cells for up to a quarter of a century. The cells could be used to treat a variety

of illnesses, depending on future scientific breakthroughs. Stem Cells International, which has stored 4,400 samples, is offering 10,000 parents in Europe and Asia a 10-year guarantee.

Divorce is forever

Many men have encountered vindictive wives in divorce court, but few have felt the sting that one Iranian man did last week when a British court agreed to his wife's demand for US\$15 million, to be paid monthly for 10,151 years.

IN OTHER NEWS

Pure naked greed

The Bank of Nova Scotia announced last week it was expanding its presence in Latin America. But two people it didn't expect to come into its fold under branch were a couple of taxicab drivers on Brooklyn in New York City. They were killed when the taxicab collapsed and they emerged back naked. They'd dozed because of the heat underground.

That wasn't a duck

A Canada Islander looking for a Regina was actually called offensively because of sexual nature and left to roost in a chicken house in a covey held in the Benedictine Convent, operated by the Regina Religious Association. Brent Parker, whose team hosted the event last week, criticized the facility as a "pigsty."

Not in the spirit

Three people were wounded in Norco, Calif., last week when garden broke out between rival motorcycle gangs at the "Sparks of Love" annual Christmas toy drive. The shooting frenzy took place in a local saloon where bikers had gathered for the event. Among the wounded was a firefighter there to collect presents for needy children. Said a disheveled organizer: "It'll be a cold day in hell before we ever get a fire truck to show up again."

Stealing the show

When a Celine Dion robot entered a school play rehearsal and derided society last week, everyone present assumed he was part of the show and laughed at him. He finally convinced people he was a real human and a school registration officer, then tried to escape. His route was toward a local police station, where alerted cops were coming for him.

Gone, not forgotten

The statue of a 19th-century journalist has been denied entry to the Plaza Lacaille Cemetery in Paris after signs of excessive profanity on the bronze statue's large groin area. The grave is popular with female visitors fascinated by the statue, which commemorates a legendary woman known as Victorine. In addition to the fence, a new sign at the grave warns against "indecent rubbing."

Weaving with Santa

If you're going to drive a vintage Corvette in your local Santa Claus parade, as Vice Michael Johnson did last week in Concord, N.C., don't drive it while you're obviously drunk. And don't drive over a small woman's foot, John, a retired fire captain, was charged with impaired driving.

A certifiable hubby

When a housewife identified only as Petra M. proposed to her



SQUAD: caught, pants down

girlfriend, she rejected him. Offended, Petra purchased a local consumer protection bureau to supply him with a certificate to guarantee he is a good husband material. He demanded to take a quality test and said that his girlfriend had refused him for no good reason. Unfortunately for Petra, the consumer bureau has rejected him as well.

IN PASSING

Peter Hain, 60, and Pita Phillips, 100, unilateral scores. Hain was chiefly credited with building the joint-venture company founded by his great uncle, Levi Strauss, was a global brand. Phillips similarly built his father's Dutch electronics firm into an international colossus that manufactured the radio cassette and integrated circuits. Both men were known for their humanitarian work. Hain requested that any factory located in the U.S. should be provided blacks with equal rights to whites. Phillips worked to delay the deportation of Jews employed in his factory during the Second World War.

Lie Binyan, 60, Chinese dissident. In the 1980s he was leading up to the Tiananmen massacre of 1989. Lie was a frequent and outspoken critic of rampant official corruption within the Chinese Communist party, and his writings gained a wide national following. In 2000, however, he was expelled from the party ranks in 1987 but continued to write critical about it from exile in the United States. M

THE WORLD WAS WATCHING IN 1972
AS 11 ISRAELI ATHLETES WERE
MURDERED AT THE MUNICH OLYMPICS.

THIS IS THE STORY OF
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT.



SAVINGS. CONVENIENCE. MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY.

Get It All With the Blue Jays Flex Pack!



THE CHOICE IS YOURS.

With a Toronto Blue Jays Flex Pack, you have the flexibility of picking the games you want and getting great seats for the price you want—prior to them going on sale to the general public! And, you save money and get great benefits as well.

CALL THE BLUE JAYS CONSUMER SALES DEPARTMENT AND RESERVE YOUR SEATS NOW:

416.341.1234 OR 1.888.OK.GO.JAY



*Benefits and/or taxes © 2005



INTERVIEW



'This is the right time to get into politics. Not to step to the sidelines because a bunch of crooks did something that required an inquiry.'

DEBORAH COYNE TALKS TO LINDA FRUM

In the ruling of Toronto-Danforth, Liberal candidate Deborah Coyne is underwriting to assist NDP leader Jack Layton. A former adviser to Newfoundland premier Clyde Wells, Coyne gained a national profile as the constitutional expert who persuaded Wells to renounce the Meech Lake Accord soon after the province's referendum. Now 44, a daughter of a former Canadian prime minister Pierre Trudeau, Coyne has built a quiet career as a lawyer, university professor, public servant, writer, and public policy consultant. Praising her daughter's journey has always been a high priority. She was divorced in 1996, after a short marriage to Globe and Mail paper maker Michael Tulip, with whom she has a son, Matthew, age 9.

Q You are a very intriguing person. You are Canadian political royalty. Just at the time you have kept an extremely low profile. Why have you decided to enter public life now?

A Well, I've always been interested in politics and most of the work I have done in my life is related to public service, most recently as the refugee board. So it was just a matter of time when I would get into active politics, where you feel you can have an impact on the social and economic policies that affect everyone in their daily lives. It just seemed to be the right time.

Q So to your best friends, and the people who

know you well, this seems to be no surprise?

A Absolutely not. I was thinking to learn recently that there are more women in Canada's electoral politics than in Afghanistan. Of course there are lots of good reasons why women don't go into politics. For most women—and you are a single mother of two kids—it's the total commitment of it that makes it so impossible.

I have two wonderful kids and I think the world of them and they are obviously the most important thing in my life. And women candidates, obviously have to struggle with it. You just disagree best. The children come first. My first priority is to be a good mother. But also I think I have something to offer in terms of public policy and making the world a better place for our kids. That is what drives me. So you try to find a balance.

Q North University president Lorne Menden recently told the Toronto Star that the wouldn't want to go into politics because it's too hard on marriages. Given this, being a single mother can actually be an advantage, don't you think?

A There's one less thing to go wrong?

A No... no comment. Another barrier to women entering politics is their fear of the sometimes cruel scrutiny of their appearance—their hair, their dress. Deborah Steneck complained about this recently. Does that worry you?

I'm not worried about it. I do, but I don't believe the residents in Toronto-Danforth think about that. And the people who are voting—more than half of them are women—

I think people really do want to focus on issues and not just the superficial.

While I can understand that the politicians who have been members of the Clinton-Martin government for the past 12 years are obliged to defend the government's record of corruption, I don't understand why you, with an unblemished reputation, would want to take that burden on.

A On the street, the Gossy Inquiry is not actually a big issue. People are concerned that it involves a few people and that the party itself has been corrupt. I think generally people are interested in having ethical government, they want people who are committed to public service, people who will follow through on their promises. I still believe in the Liberal party. And I think that is the right time for me to go into politics. And I think it's the right time for everybody who wants to see more ethics in public service as a higher calling is to get in. Not to step to the sidelines because a bunch of crooks did something that required an inquiry. You have to get in and try to make a difference.

Depending on where you make your bet, anywhere from \$1 million to \$1 million less transferred from the sponsorship program to the Liberal Party of Canada. So it's not just a few individuals who are corrupt. The Liberal party is guilty of fraud.

The party has dealt with that. Any parties that were paid to the Liberal party, it is



PAUL WELLS

They do politics differently in places where it seriously matters. In Ottawa, we tend to surface directly on issues from your party that policy-making, that hard choice is a decision, that only personality can sell papers. But Paul Martin has his second wind of campaigning in a radio station in St. John's, Nfld., on a brutal rainy Monday morning. He seems learned that in a place where government can make the difference between lighter and darker shades of grief, the questions tend to be more pointed.

Martin's host on VOXN Radio, Randy Simms, didn't waste a second on the subject that normally transmits the Wynne gallery (Is Power rising at Bellini? What are the "ages" of this or that?) Instead, he worked hard to put Martin down on a checklist of local demands. The whole process was reasonably businesslike and consistent, as in television news.

Would Martin extend extended management to the fisheries on the river and tail of the Grand Banks, choosing every foreign fishing boats even more than 200 miles offshore? Would he help pay for the Lower Churchill hydro development? Couldn't he build up the Canadian Forces base at St. John's Goose Bay? "Obviously you currently hold 8% per cent of 100,000, as an asset to the Canadian government," Simms said at one point. "You've made a lot of money on it. We'd like to have a row."

The barrage of requests would have brought an ordinary man to his knees, but Paul Martin is made of sterner stuff. There was no less request he can't kind-of seem, briefly, to be sort of fishing. The Lower Churchill "This is really up to the province. But does the federal government want it to go forward? Yes, we do." Canadian management? "I think this is a huge problem."

But the reporters travelling with Martin returned to a live audio feed of his chat with Simms in a boardroom down the hall from the studio, who quickly became apparent was how full of holes Martin's commitments really are. That's going to turn into a theme of this article, as let us begin with examples both light and momentous.

Simms asked Martin about a new study

HE'S UNBELIEVABLE!

Is there an end to Paul Martin's grand pronouncements, stirring appeals, and full-of-holes commitments? Talk about your gaseous emissions. Photos by Peter Bregg

showing that the number of federal government jobs fell far more rapidly in Newfoundland and Labrador in the years than in the rest of the country, even though jobs are more badly lacking on the Rock. Just look at the federal weather office in Gander, Simms said, almost completely shut down in 2001.

Martin reacted on the margin of weather. "Look," he said. "Whether it's weather today, whether it's too services—take a look at the weather outside today! This is where the study of weather ought to take place in this country."

"I think this is the kind of area where you've got to have centres of excellence. Obviously at Memorial [Newfoundland's only university] but I really do believe that what we've really got to do in Newfoundland and Labrador is to understand the huge weather patterns that are taking place. There is a real understanding of the weather that could only come from a place like Newfoundland and Labrador. So what I think is that this is where we ought to be studied."

It was hard to shake the hunch that Martin had taken off on weather because it was raining. It was hard to shake the hunch that if Martin had been surrounded by a barber shop quartet that morning, he would be singing for an international centre of excellence on four-part harmony.

"I guess you go to depend on that," Simms said. "You are going to be seeing a return in public forecasting out of the Gander weather office! Or a place of excellence that's centered on climate change that's out of Memorial! What is your vision?"

The radio host must have thought he was asking an either-or question. He was mistaken. "That's exactly what it is," Martin said, unapologetically. "I believe this what's happening with global warming, and what's also happening, given Newfoundland's special place geographically, that what there has to be are, in fact, centres of major study on weather patterns. On ice. Weather today. And I couldn't think of a better place for it to be than here."

Canada should be "achieving excellence in everything," he said. "And one of those areas is weather."

So that's one of his commitments. If 2,000 centres were used to work across the province no longer do, build an excellent weather centre. Or, failing that, talk about one.

The second weather wasn't long coming. Simms started to wrap things up. "I know you don't have a big lot of time and we can't get you to take any calls this morning. We're still gonna try to get you to do that one day."

Hold! I seemed a very good around the operation morning made better—the Gander will feed us on times a day of us in there—and called that. De Young, an oceanographer at Memorial University. What's that about a distant change centre of excellence?

It turns out Memorial is actually trying to put such a centre together. De Young told me. They've awarded applications for Canada



GRADING FOR T-6: Martin announces a total ban on handguns. Well, not exactly total.

Martin was quick to ban. "Yes, I would really like to do it." Simms, on foot. "All right. When?" "Ah, ha-ha." "Before Jan. 23? Let's get you to commit to it." "Uh..." "Now?"

"I know, that'll be a little hard," Martin murmured. "Uh, but I would like—listen, I would very much like to do it. By the way, for a prime minister of the country, this kind of thing—taking the calls directly—is by far the best thing I can do." And with that he left, without having done the best thing he would do, or committed to doing it later, stuck in the media filing room at the Delia

Research Centre in the science fields. "We're trying to expand our program to cover around climate change." And how much help have they had from Ottawa for that? Well, De Young and his colleagues actually came up with a plan to combine Memorial's efforts and those of a renewed Gander weather office.

And "That didn't happen." Oh. That's not so good. "There isn't a severe for climate change and meteorology at Memorial," De Young said. "And there are no plans for one in the near future."

I suggested that maybe Martin had conducted the conference with a plan to get out of a tough question. De Young had no opinion on the matter, but offered. "From our

perspective, we would be interested in looking into one of these corners if it would help us get something useful done. We're stepping people out here."

That's what happens when you follow Paul Martin around. For even a brief while on the campaign trail. "You hear a lot of grand pronouncements. Sweeping commitments. Strong appeals. And then you take a short stroll and peek back and the curtain and you discover that On the Great and the Terrible truly does. All that's there is a guy putting on airs. I have spent more of my career doing that of the Prime Minister whenever I honestly could, given the unfortunate reality of my employment as an Ottawa political columnist, because I took an early dislike to his bluffing and puffing, and I did not want to become a target being my readers. Last week was a bit of a nuisance. I was quickly reminded how easy Paul Martin is to like and how hard he is to believe."

"You know," the Prime Minister told the St. John's Board of Trade a few hours after the VOCM interview, "it comes to matters who you choose to lead the country, and what

After the board of trade speeches, we convened in a small room for a screen. One to former asked Martin about his upcoming comment on the previous week to the effect that this will be an "election referendum" in Quebec, an election with the force to settle the question of Quebec secession. It is an awkwardly unclear position to take when the separate Bloc Quebecois commands over 90 per cent of voter support.

"Well, first of all, it's not me who is doing it," Martin said. "It's the duo of [Paul Quibbiac and Lester Andri] [Boucher and] [Benoit Leduc-Gilles]. They're the ones who said

The St. John's radio host must have thought he was asking an either-or question. He was mistaken.

it's the first phase of the referendum campaign. I'm quoting them. I'm not quoting them." And what does he do when his audience says something a little off? Jump right in. "If that's how they see it, we'll fight on that basis." Scott Brasher and Duceppe announced that Canadians would be electing the next prime minister of Spain on Jan. 23, apparently Martin would start campaigning in a happy Canadian accent.

With that we left St. John's for Saint John, N.S., where Martin's campaign plane—a three-door Boeing 737, laden with yummy food stuffs, that lands by tapping onto the runway like a trout, routinely descending in less than 10 seconds of the local VNAV/GA, about 30 small children sat on the floor, looking bewildered. A Liberal campaign staffer handed them little Canadian flags. They cheered right up.

"Mr. Harper says he doesn't favour government-supported child care," Martin told the crowd. "A Liberal government will make our commitment to child care permanent." How? By doubling the amount of money allocated to San Diego's child care and early-learning agreements with the province. And, just to be on the safe side, by doubling the length of the program.

That's right. Instead of spending 21 billion over five years, Martin was announcing at 10 billion over 10 years. His new commitment does not take effect until 2009—almost certainly after the current government we are about to elect. Before long, he may extend his commitment to 2048 billion over 48 years, or 1662 billion over 162 years.

"We're talking now about the future of our country," Martin told reporters afterward. "It's our children. We're talking about a commitment to a child. It's responsible to say no."

I guess it depends which child. By the Liberal's own account, their plan would cost 635,000,000 spent over five years—rather smaller than the total number of Canadian children in daycare, and far smaller than the total number of Canadian children. It's

Stephen Harper whose plan would say no to every Canadian child under 6, or more accurately, to their parents. Martin would provide bigger state payments by saying no to lots of children. You may argue that Martin's is the superior plan. You cannot argue that it is what it isn't.

On Wednesday, Martin gave a bloody literary speech to the UN Climate Change Conference in Montreal, a global meeting to begin designing a sequel to the Kyoto accord on greenhouse gas emissions. He opened yet another news conference by sending a statement that would take little time to read back

to house him. "To the efficient nations, including the United States, I'd say that there is such a thing as a global conscience, and now is the time to listen to it."

It was a striking choice of words. A "conscience" is normally understood as a sense of one's own responsibilities. But Canada has increased its greenhouse gas emissions by 14 per cent since 1990, the United States by only 11 per cent. If the U.S. had been as prodigious over the same period as Canada, it would have spewed an extra 662 million tonnes of carbon products into the air last year. That's more than Britain's total emissions in 2003. The gap between Martin's remarks and the truth is as big as Britain. Usually when a politician issues a whopper, you can't actually give the whopper a name. But you can name the one. You can call it America. Say hello to America, the whopper.

After striking Montreal, Martin stepped in Toronto to announce a total ban on handguns. Well, not total. The ban would exempt gun club members and, for five years, politicians who would then have to join gun clubs. The same two groups are exempted today from a near total ban that has been in place for decades. And individual provinces would have a right to opt out. That's going to be a bit tricky, because if you can obtain handguns in every one province, this means you plan to stream border guards between the provinces, you might as well try to ban clouds.

In the space of a single week, Martin had skated himself offside the truth on climate studies, phone-in calls, referendum elections, tax policy, daycare, handguns, and, unusually, given the rest of it, gaseous emissions. And in the week progressed, the SES tracking poll for CMC's *Consent to the Liberal* leader over Harper's Conservatives steadily widening. We have a warning of voter, low unemployment, and millions of voters who have decided they just don't like Stephen Harper. Paul Martin may simply be incapable of subverting his own career. But give him credit for trying. It

PHOTO: GUY LAWRENCE/GETTY IMAGES

We got tired of winning one award at a time.



NEW MARTIN: Martin said he'd increase child care spending to 210 billion over 10 years.

they believe." Over the course of his lunch speech he would repeat the words "in earnest" 14 times.

And what does Martin believe? Oh, various things. He doesn't like Stephen Harper's proposed GST cut. "I'll save you about 90 cents on a toaster." In contrast, under the Liberal tax plan, "every single penny goes toward cutting personal income taxes because that is what will work best for working families." A selling contrast. Also untrue: Billions of dollars' worth of promises will go toward cutting corporate taxes, too.



2006 Hyundai Tucson
AutoPilot® Best in Class Vehicle Satisfaction
Compact Sport Utility

2005 Hyundai Santa Fe
AutoPilot® Best in Class Vehicle Satisfaction
Mid-Size Sport Utility



In the past two years, both the new AutoPilot® Vehicle Satisfaction Award and the new Best in Class Award have been won by Hyundai. Two more awards to add to our ever-growing list of accolades. Welcome to the new Hyundai.

hyundai.com

The Tories' deep hole

Even if they make headway in Ontario (a no-go so far), it'll just push worried NDPers to Martin

BY JONATHAN GATREBEE—It's going to make a Christmas miracle—or a New Year's surprise—for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to make a major electoral breakthrough in Ontario. Two weeks into the federal election campaign, decided voters in the province's key battleground remain as divided as they were in 2004—41.2 per cent Liberal, 12.2 per cent Conservative, and 18.6 per cent NDP, according to a new Macdonald poll. A trend that favors neither Paul Martin's minority win.

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

vide a Christmas miracle—or a New Year's surprise—for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to make a major electoral breakthrough in Ontario. Two weeks into the federal election campaign, decided voters in the province's key battleground remain as divided as they were in 2004—41.2 per cent Liberal, 12.2 per cent Conservative, and 18.6 per cent NDP, according to a new Macdonald poll. A trend that favors neither Paul Martin's minority win.

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

vide a Christmas miracle—or a New Year's surprise—for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to make a major electoral breakthrough in Ontario. Two weeks into the federal election campaign, decided voters in the province's key battleground remain as divided as they were in 2004—41.2 per cent Liberal, 12.2 per cent Conservative, and 18.6 per cent NDP, according to a new Macdonald poll. A trend that favors neither Paul Martin's minority win.

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

vide a Christmas miracle—or a New Year's surprise—for Stephen Harper and the Conservatives to make a major electoral breakthrough in Ontario. Two weeks into the federal election campaign, decided voters in the province's key battleground remain as divided as they were in 2004—41.2 per cent Liberal, 12.2 per cent Conservative, and 18.6 per cent NDP, according to a new Macdonald poll. A trend that favors neither Paul Martin's minority win.

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

While the relatively smooth start to the Tory campaign has surprised pundits, and pleased the party's base, it doesn't seem to have made much of an impression on the people who will be casting the deciding ballot in Ontario's next riding-area race. The Conservative promises to reduce the GST and pro-

THE HARPER HOP

In Week 2 of the campaign, the Conservative leader went from receiving the most negative coverage of the four main party leaders to the most positive

BY JANE BRYDEN—It's a truism that a week is a lifetime in politics. And Stephen Harper certainly got a new lease on life last week, as he rose in terms of newspaper coverage. According to the 2006 Federal Election Newspaper Analysis project, a weekly feature in *Maclean's* during this campaign, the Conservative leader went from receiving the most negative coverage of the four main party leaders at the outset of the campaign to the most positive in Week 2. Moreover, the Conservative managed to put an end to the ruling Liberals' early demise of news-coverage, grabbing an equal share of the headlines. "That certainly disabused the fact that [the Tories] have been driving the agenda," says Stuart Soroka, co-director of McGill University's Observatory on Media and Public Policy (OMPP), which conducted the analysis. "They've really come to dominate quite successfully."

After a rocky launch, Harper spent most of the first week avoiding major plays in his party's platform. He continued that in the second week, with announcements on child care, education and small business not blemishing Prime Minister Paul Martin, who spent a

the Liberals received 47 per cent of first-week news, compared to 29 per cent for the Tories (the NDP was mentioned less in almost 100 per cent of second-week articles, up from 11 per cent, while the Bloc received almost eight per cent, down slightly from the opening week). First mentions are "quite a powerful indication of the way the campaign is being framed," says Soroka. "What's about? Who's on the move?" The framing of the campaign has shown a real shift over the past week.

The OMPP tracks coverage in seven major dailies: the *Globe and Mail*, *National Post*, *Northern Star*, *Calgary Herald*, *Winnipeg Free Press* and *Le Devoir*. It tallies the number of mentions each leader and party receives, rates them as positive, negative or neutral, and then subtracts the negative mentions from the positive mentions to arrive at a "net score." For the coverage in the second week, the average gap score for Martin, who went from -6 per cent to -39 per cent, and the NDP's Jack Layton, who went from -6 per cent to -41 per cent. But the Bloc's Gilles Duceppe's coverage improved, from 1 per cent in Week One to zero in the second week. The most dramatic change was for Harper,

The Liberals' 'Seinfeld' strategy—a campaign about nothing—is working better than they hoped

keep the Liberals on the defensive. "Harper needs a January surprise," says Lyle. "Something like another election-type scandal that would really stick to Martin."

The way things stand now, the Liberal "Seinfeld" strategy—a campaign about nothing—seems to be working better than even they might have expected. Nationally, the party appears to be holding its 2004 vote—their notable exception of Quebec. Brian Coleman, where the three major parties are running neck-and-neck, could even offer most seat gains at the Tories' expense. A left-right voter split in the Liberal stronghold of the real life. Policy announcements on the campaign had appear to be getting lost in the pre-Christmas buzz, according to an internal survey of 500 Maclean's readers. A bare majority—42 per cent—were in favor of the business premise, Harper's plan to reduce the GST by two per cent. Asked about the Liberal campaign, few respondents were able to identify a specific announcement or theme (31 per cent) read, seen or heard something about taxation).

If these trends hold as voting day approaches, the Conservatives will have little choice but to go on the attack, unleashing the "negative" advertising they reportedly have

THOMAS JORDAN HAS STRONG LAYTON, leading in his bid, has to get the NDP excited

standing in the study. But that strategy will open Harper up to similar counterattacks. And the Liberal version has already proven itself exceptionally adept at the disavowal of policies.

The challenge going forward for Jack Layton and the NDP will be getting noticed in the national debate turns increasingly rusty—something the party surely acknowledged with the launch of its "Core Paul Martin the Boss" attack ad last week. As with the Liberals, few pundits were able to articulate a theme or message in the New Democratic campaign (44 per cent said health care). And Layton, despite his high voter approval ratings and cross-party appeal, seems to be having trouble finding his stride on the campaign. The good news for the party is that the can doesn't seem to be setting as quickly as those on over the Conservatives. While NDP learning voters remain nervous about the possibility of Harper government, there is a sense that a strategic campaign to the Liberals is imminent. And in long as a Tory victory looks like a longshot, Layton has time to convince

voters that a strong NDP presence in Ottawa is the best way to keep the Liberalization of Canada that the drive wedge that will drive NDP's away from the centre. ■

journalists.gatereeb@mclean.ca



BEAT TO SILENCE: Stephen Harper and his wife, Laureen, campaigning in North Bay, Ont.

leisurely first week housing about the Liberal government's economic record and seeing to Harper's proposal, was forced to pick up the pace, covering his own children plus a day after Harper had dramatically announcing a ban on handguns (The OMPP's analysis did not include coverage of the gun control plan).

The OMPP concludes that in the second week, the Conservatives were mentioned in 35 per cent of newspaper reports and opinion pieces, virtually the same as the Liberals. That's a stark contrast to Week One, when

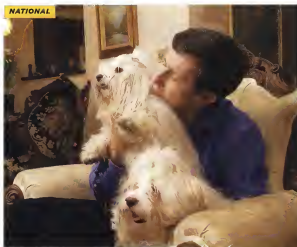
who at three per cent was the only leader to garner a net positive score, after scoring the worst score of -14 per cent in the first week.

"The fact that [Harper] is making all these policy statements seems to be helping," says Soroka. While opinion polls haven't yet shown any bounce for the Tories—and some suggest the Liberals have gone up slightly—Soroka says past research suggests "public opinion is linked to media content." For now, though, Soroka says it's tough to say if voters are paying much holiday pay attention, or



WHO HE IS: A HOME NDP Martin, pictured in St. John's, is happy just to get on his feet.

side families with direct child-care subsidies have barely made an impression, as living wages remain lack of Harper, expressing strong doubts about his trustworthiness and leadership. And once dissolving will for the Tories, Ontario's fragmented political landscape appears to offer little room for growth. "When you look at the numbers, you can't deny that who Harper seems to be trying to hit a home run every time he steps up to the



No more tears, Mr. Robinson

He's back on his medication, and has his therapist's approval to run. That might be good news for him, but what about his party?

BY KEVIN MAQUERREY • Max Robinson—an avowed Conservative, it must be said—settles onto the sofa of the Burnaby, B.C., courthouse his cheeks with friend Robinson, his partner of 11 years. His goodies quoniam that bedevil many: why Robinson is late again; a remote to his life after; how, you know, the ring thing! And how does he—the world's best recipient of drugging—did about it? "That's his life, that's what he loves," Robinson says with a shrug. "That's why I support him, not because it is

good personally it's because he has his home," both he and Robinson have lived for the campaign and to protect to respect a world of him, both personally, and for Robinson's New Democrat colleagues: "He has my support," says Riverton, a personable, 39-year-old electioneer who, after serving as the oversight agent for this Robinson's stretch federal campaign. On Riverton's left, finger in a heavy gold band, inset with diamonds: He's had one almost 10 years. He loves it. "That's one

thing I couldn't understand," he says, scratching out his head. "Why did I need another ring?" As for the significance of the band, "No, we're not married." It's a form of prison from those on the mile, he suggests, the secret of his Cuban heritage: adding a delicacy to the explanation. "It's better if people think you're married. Then they would try to get your attention."

There was a dismal 15-month span in British Columbia public life when it was a foolish reporter indeed who did not arrive at any and all news events packing at least one baggie, and maybe a waterproof notebook. You just never knew when a scandal apology would break out.

It began in January 2003, with Premier Gordon Campbell's drunk driving bust on Maui, and his wrenching admission to the B.C. press corps: "I've made a serious mistake." In March 2004, it was today's head Tidal Barkman, who, after renouncing her Moore into the Vancouver ice, offered a stunning up plan for and understanding. "I am not a mean spirited person," a month later, it was Robinson's act of "utterly intentional" the

death of a mag later valued by the RCMP at \$21,500 from a public auction. He went on modest leave, and quit his re-election bid.

Three heart-wrenching apologies were followed by their glibly given, direct sense of court imposed penance—from his noncommittal service—and three painful periods of humiliation and public reproach: What did he happen were these dark currents? Campbell was to discuss this May, his conviction barely registering to an issue. Barkman returned his place to fall on the Canada's top line. Now, Robinson is attempting the redemption to facts—naming for the NDP this federal election in Vancouver Centre, and carrying more baggage than the Air Canada right flight to Ottawa. It's an act of courage, as he says. Take your pick, no one is neutral about Robinson's movement. Either way, he may be the toughest test yet of the capacity of British Columbia to forgive, forget and move on.

Eleven in government is the bedrock issue in this campaign. Life would be less complicated for a political figure. Scott the NDP Leader Jack Layton of Robinson—a convicted jewel thief—set out the bill, campaign. His former for public office was a private concern for some in the caucus. And, as it is enough, on Layton's first evening to B.C., keeping the topic on the table, and all Robinson, proved a challenge. "I've had Robinson took responsibility for what happened," Layton gamely rose and each time the question was asked. "He paid his price in full." Voters, Layton predicted, "will critically understand."

Well, maybe. Opinions are mixed in the last hours of Vancouver Centre, and in the letters pages of the local press. One break-and-into, where he took jewelry from a jewelry store, was his first Vancouver home, with no on a chain table, and "I was called some names who sold a valuable diamond ring running for a election," she wrote in the Vancouver Sun. "Who would vote for such a man?" Robinson's last single-handedly lowered the gift question for them. "Not we cannot helpfully the first several segments of the race the news last week that there were many more serious and reduced personal safety—and campaign for Robinson. Still, his candor has caused surprisingly forgiveness in much the spot, Robinson says, that Campbell's conviction won't be an issue in his re-election, and Barkman has returned to public. "I'm sorry," he says, and you accept the comparison as credible as Campbell did, and I did, and I did," he says. "People accept that and understand that."

Robinson, however, on 21, his friends seemed energized by the night's inlay over 15 years, and seven wins, in federal politics. He had, from his days as a 27-year-old political rookie, a dual gift for publicity and controversy. They play wasn't a strong suit. He lost,

and secured, once portfolios for ideas that rangled from legislative government to the tabling of a petition to remove God from the Constitution, and for each score in heading Ronald Reagan during a speech to Parliament and attempting to push just Israel's border guards to pull down the West Bank.

Of all his campaigns and crusades, it was his coming out as a homosexual in 1999 that was the "most emotional moment," says Bill Siksay, his riding associate for 18 years, and the man who was Robinson's Burnaby-Douglas riding in the last election. His declared homosexuality was an emotional event, but, all politics being local, it was the voters of Burnaby who decided that being gay was no impediment to public office. The career became a shared adventure. "They'd be a thought a lot with him over the years," says Siksay. "Having a political relationship with him is a very demanding thing."

It may be as simple as this: birds party, fish party, sweat, second's gone. Run. Down at the bottom of this, when he was finally winning his resignation from public life before a national TV audience, both



SOGAL REBEL He had seven consecutive wins in his previous beauty stronghold

"I thought it was actually a drag queen's ring," his partner, Max, recalls

supporters, and cynics, were calculating how long it would be before his return. "It's who he is," says Vancouver East New Democrat Lizzy Dennis, a third who literally supported the full and children Robinson's during that moment. She wanted to elude his self that day in the of his comeback. "But later," she says, "I always knew it was a possibility. But I also loved him and encouraged him to show up for himself, on a personal level." Siksay never did elude Robinson's would attempt a return, or that he'd keep his promise

not to essay Siksay's role as MP of his old riding. "I wanted him to come back when he was healthy. I wanted him to come back when he could win," Siksay says.

Robinson makes a 10-entry strategy in the midst of his resignation "was the furthest thing from my mind." That was too many things to resolve, and too long a path to recovery. On this Wednesday, Dec. 3 evening, Robinson is a day away from starting full-time campaigning. He's already rented an apartment in the riding. He's drawing up his calendar at the Burnaby office of the British Columbia Government and Service Employees' Union, where he's worked for the past year and a half in a legal role. He plunged into the job after the court accepted his guilty plea to the 1999 case. He was given a conditional discharge, meaning he has no criminal record—a judicial gift that engaged his critics. He was put on a year's probation, ordered to do 100 hours of community service, and to continue psychiatric counseling.

He fulfilled his court-ordered promise at the Burnaby 94th Avenue area. The first day I was there, I helped to prepare a list for



ophthalmologists," he says. He cracked out cups and later, growing stronger himself, he learned how to repair the wings of injured birds. It was "a privilege," he says quietly, he knew the old second bubble on the surface. "One moment—out by law as an identification, and due back to the end of the last century," he says. "That's not even to follow up on." He continues in amazement. He's running, he's said, with his therapist's blessing. He recently resumed taking medication for his bipolar disorder. "That's why I'm so happy, because I'm trying to follow up," he says. "And partly just to believe some of the mood swings that are part of this illness." Robinson has lived much of his life as a rebel, but he's working with how much of the illness enters public display. "That," he says, "is a gradual journey for a public figure." He has, at times, seemed to embrace the angst of his illness. At one

times, he's used to advantage. Send it back, transport his decision-making, "stronger than ever." But if that makes it seem too easy, as if a bipolar diagnosis is merely an obstacle to overcome with pluck and determination, that's not the case, he says. He does feel stronger than he has in years, "but you have to be realistic also," he says. "You live with this for the rest of your life and you have to be aware of it."

Even worse, Robinson possessed headlines. He scored for \$10,000 and an apology on a live web he'd launched against the RCMP in 2001 after he and a group of protesters at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City that April were tear-gassed and he was struck by what he believes was a rubber bullet. While critics dismissed the case as grandstanding, Robinson calls the incident an "abuse of police power." A public complaints commission agreed in a subsequent report, saying police used "excessive and unjustified force." It never determined the source of his injury. Robinson was isolated to push his lawsuit to trial, but with his financial and emotional resources at low ebb, he says he decided to settle.

If there was a silver lining to his return to the political arena, he says it was a Vancouver rally this February over the trial of one of the murderers of Aaron Wilson, a gay peacekeeper who was beaten to death in Stanley Park. The crowd refused to clarify his reaction



THIS KING THING: Robinson single-handedly lowered the gaffe quotient for thieves

conflict, "and to what extent it might, in fact, hurt me, or hurt the party." That something found, he says, that this ring wasn't an issue "for the vast majority." It found, he says, he could win.

Robinson has said about all he's going to say about being hit: He's apologized. He's paid the price. He hopes to move on. Back at home, Robinson's retirement, with Robinson out walking their dogs, Janine and Coburn, two cheerfully fractious pairs of white Bull

terriers, he looked truly pathetic to me. And then he responded, "I took it," I said, "You scored a ring?" No, you must be kidding." And he said, "Yes, I did it. I'm on my way to the RCMP detachment, I've already phoned them." I said, "How could you? Honesty and integrity have been part of your whole life and you're doing this now?" And he just said, "And I loved."

Robinson was especially hurt that Robinson held the stolen ring over a long weekend before confiding, "It's yours, this whole week, and together and he's never and a work, and I with he would have," he says. "Awful," it Robinson's most descriptive of these tormented days of indecision. That was the second great trauma of their relationship. In 1997, Robinson had a near-fatal fall off a cliff while hiking. For months he was wired shut and he was in a wheelchair. While Robinson worked as a cook and a bartender, "And I don't go back through this," Robinson marvels. "The agony, the pain and the humiliation. He's a rock, the Rock of Gibraltar."

He's also, Robinson is the first to admit, an irremediable Tory. "I've always been a Conservative supporter," Robinson says with a shrug. "One of my political heroes is Joe Clark—there's no higher respect for him, I wish he were still involved in politics because of his integrity and his decency." There's also the allusion of Tory economic policy. "In social terms I believe in what the NDP believes, but for me, the economy is No. 1, and from there you can build the rest."

That's an endorsement you may find in Robinson's campaign literature. It will be a tough enough fight: Vancouver Centre, while famously known as the heart of the Lower Mainland's powerful gay and lesbian community, is a melting pot of voters, from the lush mansion of Stanley Park to the fringe corner of the city's business, financial and hotel districts. It's one of the most densely populated urban cores in North America. It is inordinately

"I'm confident," he says. "I can actually be a better MP, and a better person."

apartments and relatively modest condos of the West End, but also the influx of power couples and families into its million-plus in the growing great wall of residential towers crowding Cast Hill and Pines Creek. Many Tory has held the riding for 12 years, though they were and have left. Formerly under the Ontario Liberal power structure, by building alliances across the political spectrum, they built the business community, the retailers, and, you say, gay and lesbian community.

By no stretch is a self-promoter herself, though off a newspaper columnist's descrip-



BOLLERCASTER: Having a political relationship with him is a demanding thing

tion of her "not fight" with Robinson as a "Bottle of the Dime." Not a chance, she says. "I've run against high-profile candidates before," Fry notes. "A gay person? It's not like that's new. Every single election, I've run against at least one gay candidate." The best he doesn't mind, a much lower-profile New Democrat, by a nearly 6,000 vote in the last campaign, a solid effort. Now, she says, will the result to a "personal and many" campaign this time, despite an abundance of union funds.

That said, she has a few shots across Robinson's bow. Wondering, for instance, why he doesn't have the gay romance in his old romance by riding. She suspects it was polling, not only to his, "probably doing some math and finding out it wouldn't be feasible." Then there's his headline-grabbing crack record. "As a politician, someone who I'm most interested in," Fry says, "it's a cheap. It's a cheap."

As to how he handles the ring thing, "I don't," Fry says. "That's about the only thing I don't do on myself." Fry, a former lawyer, a Vancouver lawyer making his first run for the Conservatives in the riding, offers a similar answer. "My style is not to read-lead," he says. "I think there's going to be enough chatter out there in terms of everybody's personal histories, I'm just not going to get into that," he says, "it's often raised by voters." "I've been doing a lot of fundraising, and

it seems it's the most topical issue," he says. "The issue is related to the perception of voters in who they can trust."

For Robinson, this campaign is a measure of rehabilitation as much as redemption. Even in exile, he didn't give himself much downtime, says Robinson with some cooperation. He went out at the time a week after his sentencing. Wednesday was spent at the criminal refuge. He worked on a book, on a movie script, and daily replied to thousands of emails and letters. "He took a rest, but he never really stopped," says Vincent. "He can do so many things in such a short period of time. Probably his mental illness, you could say, makes him more efficient in his work."

Now the pace ramps up to manic. On this Wednesday, Robinson arrives home to find two photographers waiting. One is there to film a story for the *BC Post* (regularly Robinson—publicity even Robinson never agreed to. Friends like Blosky and Downey say they only accept his statements that he's strong enough to resume his parliamentary life after Robinson says, this time, he knows the warning signs, and when to slow down. "I'm confident," he says, "I can usually be a better member of Parliament, and a better person."

Robinson wishes all this campaign chaos, and the joy and purpose it gives his partner's life. "I think he'll be able to handle the stress," he says cheerfully. "And now, he knows he has boundaries." That isn't the thing about Robinson—he never really liked boundaries. ■



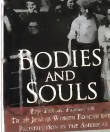
BILL EVANS: BING: It may be this simple, Bink gets it, his partner says, Bink gets it, Bink gets it

as gay-baiting, although Robinson, in one of his last parliamentary confessions, had seemed to be having sexual orientation added to the list of hate crimes. "It was an issue I cared prominently about," he says. "I was quite overbearing to me to see the response of people when I spoke. Many of those people said, 'We need you back.'"

Later, he pulled voters in Vancouver Centre, an endorsement because of his presence in the gay and lesbian community there, and because he lived and worked there as a young man. He wanted to gauge the impact of his

Robinson says Robinson had been on a month-long slide into insensitivity. "He was not completely out of it, it's a completely different person." Still, nothing prepared Robinson for the realization that Robinson had stolen a ring. He refused the moment, word for word, in a careful silence.

"He said, 'I did it.' And then he pulled his hand out of his pocket and pulled out a ring. And I said, 'And what is that?' And then he said, 'I did it.' I said, 'What?'—again, he said, 'He said, 'I took it.' I said, 'What?'—again, I asked. I thought it was actually a drag



BODIES AND SOULS
THE JEWISH WOMEN TORONTO
PROSECUTION IN THE AMERICAN

ISABEL VINCENT

"One of the saddest and most shameful stories in Jewish history has been suppressed for generations: between 1884 and 1939, thousands of poor young women from Eastern European shtetls were sold into sexual slavery by the Jewish-run Zwi Migdal crime syndicate which controlled brothels on several continents.... Canadian journalist Isabel Vincent demonstrates her strength as a writer and storyteller, which enables her to ... retrieve this all-but-lost world."

—Publishers Weekly

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD



Random House Canada
WWW.RANDOMHOUSE.CA



LET ME PHRASE This year, Martin and Duceppe may both be content to remain in a curious middle: Can Harper explain on-air?

Lights, camera, action

As with the NHL, debate organizers hope new rules will bring more buzz

BY JOHN KERRIES — Reporting on TV debates, these campaign set pieces, drawn heavily from the sports page. Politicians spend about the potential for a "knockout punch," even though it rarely happens. As the format changes, Paul Martin might want to "ring the

Dodging a media question is one thing. Not responding to an average citizen is quite another.

bell," wearing around his shoulders while avoiding awkward confrontation that might cost him his lead. On the other hand, the new place play, Stephen Harper might "swing for the fences," making a big gesture to close the gap. "It's political reporters taking the opportunity to be sports reporters," scoffs Gordon Ashworth, a Toronto opinion uncon-

scious consultant and former Liberal strategist, who helped prepare both Jean Chrétien and Pierre Trudeau for debate. The upshot, he says, is that the televised debates are almost always overplayed.

Maybe, but it's hard to resist yet another sports analogy for changes that could make this week's debates particularly interesting. Just as the NHL imposed new rules that seemed to make pro hockey watchable again, the new rules have overshadowed the way the four federal leaders will square off. The debates in last year's election were widely criticized for allowing too many frustrating interruptions, with leaders speaking over leaders—or not. Like dirty-and-grab hockey where players rarely get enough open ice to complete a play. Organizers have tried to fix that problem: in this campaign's debates, when one leader is answering a question, the microphones of the other three will be switched off. Belatedly and give-and-take will, at least in theory, be more orderly.

And the source of the questions could also focus a shift in tone. Instead of being posed by a panel of journalists, the politicians will take queries from ordinary Canadians, videotaped in advance. Dodging a question from a media personality is one thing, faking one respectfully address one from an average citizen whose vote you are trying to win would be quite another. As well, the addition of a second set of debates could also change the dynamic, eliminating the winner-take-all tension. This week's encounter, in French on Dec. 11 and English on Dec. 12, will be followed by a rematch, scheduled for Jan. 9 and Jan. 10. That could mean all of the party leaders will hold their real fights in reserve.

Add it all up, and the outlook for this week is shockingly rosy. A dead-ruby policy to discourage politicians' lies. A format that compels leaders to address themselves to individual voters. And the knowledge that there will be a second chance to get together, if need be, after the holidays. What's more, the cam-

aigning has gotten to an unexpectedly interesting start.

Conventional wisdom held that this election would be dominated by opposition attacks on Paul Martin's Liberalism as protection for the government's record, notably on the Liberal violation of Stephen Harper's Conservative campaign promises. Instead, the Tories kicked off last week's early policy announcements—from slashing the goods and services tax by two percentage points, to

Tory numbers could well be low enough on the eve of the debates to tempt Harper to gamble

giving parents of small children \$1,266 a year. The Liberals' campaign website idea of their own, like more money for daycare and a ban on handgun sales. "We've changed ourselves quickly from corporate to mass," says Nik Nason, president of the polling firm SES Research. "If I stamp that way, this is no longer a referendum on a third government."

It's a high-risk approach from the Conservatives. Every day that they turn the campaign into a contest of ideas is a day that it is not about the sponsoring offer. Polls in the first two weeks of the campaign showed the Liberal lead growing, suggesting Harper's policy emphasis was not paying off. That might push him to be more aggressive on the corruption theme in the debates, says Geoff Lytle, managing director of innovative Research Group, the firm conducting polls for Martin during the campaign. But Lytle also says voters already know Harper is smart and capable on his feet. As a result, they will be looking for something more from him than more polite sounding.

"People watching will not be willing to accept just a five-star performance by Stephen Harper," Lytle says. "He has to come across at a different level, an emotional level." The Conservative leader's instincts, however, don't lead him to lose the manner and let his emotions show—as he demonstrated on the first day of the campaign with his rhetorically restrained response to questions about whether he loved Canada.

The experience of last year's campaign shows how just holding his own—even when

winning might be enough for Harper. Most day after results of the British Columbia election in 2001 declared him the victor. But that apparent score in one of the deciding constituencies didn't win him any better advance, as Conservative support went on to be eroded in Ontario by Jack Layton's Martin and Liberal resurgence in the campaign's last stages. The last year Harper needs to persuade Conservatives out of Montreal to re-evaluate him on some more lasting level. "If Harper is an trouble going into the debates, particularly in Ontario," says Bill Tiedeman, a Vancouver conservative consultant and former NDP strategist, "any advice to him is that he needs to take chances."

Nobody else is likely to bring an approach to the polls through the campaign's first phase, Martin might be more than willing to play to a draw. Gilles Duceppe is also in a tough, front-runner mode, his Bloc Québécois dominating Quebec. For his part, NDP leader Jack Layton was widely viewed as off-puttingly party in last year's debate. That time, he might look for a way to define himself as above the fray—Gordon Wilson did just that and revised Bill C-14 while in a comfortable swing in the province's 2001 campaign debate—without making another alternative performance.

This leaves Harper. Conservatives a voters could well be low enough on the eve of the debates to tempt him to gamble. The new format, though, might not lead itself to any



KNOWLEDGE This Maloney former moment.

sort of aggressive risk. And even if the idea of discouraging palling nations, Harper might decide to wait until after Christmas for those cautions to the wind. With a new format to contend with, party intrigues are even less confident than usual about predicting the debates' outcomes. As the sports writers say, that's why they play the game. ■

FOR THE RECORD

POLITICS IS DIRTY, AND SO ARE THE AIRCRAFT

Like *Time* magazine's environmentalists, the Conservatives walked on their words about the use and cleanup of the Liberal campaign aircraft. "It's not a jetting around in a Boeing 727—one of the world's most and most environmentally unfriendly aircraft. Conversely, the Conservative campaign plane is an Airbus A320—widely respected for its low greenhouse gas emissions and noise control."

National Bestseller

WILLIAM SAMPSON

"An uncommonly brilliant book."

—Calgary Herald

confessions of an INNOCENT MAN

TORTURE AND SURVIVAL IN A SAUDI PRISON



MCCLELLAND & STEWART Publishing Inc. Tor.

www.mcclelland.com

CHRISTMAS DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE

BUT WITH YOUR HELP IT CAN. 1.800.SAL.ARMY



SalvationArmy.ca

WORLD



THREE SMARTER WAYS TO SAVE THE WORLD

Bono has put Africa front and centre, but Canada should spend its foreign aid closer to home

BY TONY KILGARD—Mother Teresa used to have described the slums of the Indian capital, Port Blair, as "the fifth world." This was not hyperbole. Per capita income in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere is \$440, with most of the population living on less than \$1 a day. Life expectancy is only 48 years. More than one in 10 Haitian children die before the age of 5, that's 20 times the Canadian rate. Laziness is low, and on the United Nations Human Development Index, Haiti is number 159. (Canada is fifth.) The country ranks only 149th (last) on the United Nations Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, tying with Myanmar and Turkmenistan as the third most corrupt country on earth. Kidnapping for ransoms is widespread.

Haiti is an economic and political disaster area. It is also the one place on earth where

Canada behaves and is treated almost like a superpower. Together with France and the United States, Canada has played a key role in recent attempts to help Haiti get back on track. It has never been easy, and there's real debate over how much we've accomplished or even over hope to. But one thing is certain: Haiti needs help. And there may be no country better equipped for the job than Canada. "The United States? Otherwise successful, and stagnated by a history of meddling, France? Dirty. But for Canada, which shares with Haiti a language, a large diaspora community and a Governor General who was born there, the Caribbean island (which is finally our backyard) We've traditionally been Haiti's second largest source of tourists and, after the U.S. and neighbouring Dominican Republic, the third largest buyer of the country's few exports. In 1994, and again in 2004,

Canadian military forces interested to help change Haiti's government, and Canadian soldiers and police officers have served long years of duty there. Canada is already more deeply involved in Haiti than most Canada's critics. Given Canadian foreign policy's growing focus on helping the world's worst off, and given one of the world's worst hot spots is so familiar to us, shouldn't Haiti be at the top of Canada's "to do" list?

It's not at the moment. Even senior leadership candidate Paul Martin brought in such singer Bono to speak at the 2003 Liberal convention, foreign aid has become an increasingly visible priority for the Canadian government, and Africa has gotten most of the attention. Canada has promised to increase overall, from less than \$1 billion in 2000 to \$6 billion by 2010, and has pledged to double aid to Africa, the largest destination for Canadian aid, by 2008. In deciding how to spend the new money, Canada has largely followed the lead of French Prime Minister Tony Blair, Bono and the Live 8 campaign—all of whom have made Africa their priority. Their reasons are obvious: it's the least developed continent, and the most ravaged by AIDS. It was also governed, justly, by Europeans until little more than a generation ago.

But given Canada's location, international ties and recent history, could we do more good for the world by spending a little less of our aid in a gigantic continent that already has the attention of the rest of the First World, and more on one small country, Haiti, which is just as underdeveloped as Africa, but more connected to Canada by geography, immigration and history?

Canada's aid program has long been one of the world's most diffuse. Even Bono, who's spent billions of dollars worth of Canadian development aid over the past few decades has admitted: "You are not alone. Bono is kind to measure and harder to communicate, because the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the government's aid arm, gives development assistance to over 150 countries—essentially dropping a little bit here and a little bit there in every developing country on the planet. CIDA is literally all over the map.

If Canada were targeting its aid at only a handful of countries, we would stand out once of being a real giant. Consider: Haiti's one million people live in an economy whose gross domestic product is smaller than that of Prince Edward Island, population 148,000. Several hundred million dollars a year dropped into such a tiny pool would not go unnoticed.

According to Danielle Goldfarb of the CIDA House Institute, the spend-a-lot everywhere aid strategy is increasingly rejected by other major donors. "In 2004, Norway focused its aid on only seven main countries and 35 other



ON NATURAL BE HALF AS FIERCE Canadian troops have often gone to Haiti, and our soldiers and police have served long, tough tours of duty there.

minor partner countries," says Goldblatt. "Australia and New Zealand concentrate on the Far East and Papua-New Guinea. Japan concentrates on Asia, Spain on Latin America."

Canada, in contrast, tries to be a player everywhere. "That spreads dollars thinly, and expertise too. "It really means that you're able to understand the countries that you give aid to better, so that you can design aid programs that are going to be more effective," says Goldblatt. But "if we're so unskilled, we aren't able to have that kind of local knowledge."

When the programs are not spending less, but spending in fewer places. "If you want to do it, say, to countries," says Goldblatt, "then you could really develop a genuine and make a difference in those countries." But now, that hasn't been the Canadian way. Instead, we're a bit player in most countries, but a leader in almost none. "If you look at our top aid recipients, we don't get into the double digits [as a percentage of aid received by the country] in any of those countries." The one exception, Haiti.

Canada is Haiti's second largest bilateral aid donor, after the United States. Canada has pledged \$180 million to Haiti over two years, for everything from traditional CIDA development aid, such as support for agriculture and technical assistance to the Haitian electrical power corporation, to nontraditional but increasingly popular types of aid, such as election monitoring and training for court clerks and police officers. On January 6, Haiti will hold the first round of national elections—under the supervision of a team

led by Canada's chief electoral officer. The UN police force in the country is also commanded by a Canadian. Haiti is one country in which Canadian aid workers, police, soldiers and diplomats are developing a growing level of expertise, including expertise in working together.

Haiti's aid situation also fits with two important goals of the current government's foreign policy: the desire to spur development at the present moment, and the concept of "responsibility to protect."

Responsibility to protect is an idea that Canada has pushed hard for the United Nations to adopt, a principle that in extreme cases will override the sovereignty of states. Under responsibility to protect, the international community would have a right to intervene in situations of gross human rights abuses, or where the state has completely broken down. Canada and the UN sent soldiers into Haiti in 1994 and again in 2004 for those very reasons. Like Afghanistan, Haiti is a failed state. Like Afghanistan, putting it back together will not be easy. And like Afghanistan, Canadian involvement in Haiti follows what has become known as the JD model, with diplomacy, defense and development working hand in hand to try to rebuild a failed state. Unlike Afghanistan, however, Canadians have longer experience in and greater knowledge of Haiti.

UN forces have been in the country for nearly two years, and when they first stepped in, Canadian troops were in the vanguard, with 500 soldiers arriving days after President



Haiti's economy is smaller than P.E.I.s. A small boost in aid would be a big help.

Jean-Bertrand Aristide was overthrown. In the months prior, the Canadian government was one of the leaders of the movement to get Aristide to respect human rights, to share power with his opponents and, ultimately, to step aside.

Ironically, Canadian troops who helped oust the infamous post-Aristide had, a decade earlier, escorted him to power as Haiti's first democratically elected leader. In the early 1990s, after a military coup ousted Aristide, the UN imposed economic sanctions, with troops and ships blockading. A United Nations military force ultimately prevailed and got Aristide back into power, remaining in the country for several years, for a time under Canadian command.

Wide-set eyes are a beautiful feature. Especially when you're a potato.

When it comes to being a "hot potato," famous names like Russell and Shepody are known for being the most desirable. Because with shallow, wide-set eyes, they make ideal French fries. That's why McDonald's® Canada uses only Russell and Shepody varieties when making our world-famous fries. After all, it's always fashionable to be irresistible.



KIDS LOVE TO PLAY THAT'S WHY McDONALD'S CANADA HAS OVER 650 PLAYPLACE® LOCATIONS FOR THEM TO KICK OFF THEIR SHOES AND JUST BE KIDS (SO YOU CAN KICK UP YOUR FEET AND JUST RELAX, MAMA)

FRENCH FRIES. FRENCH FASHION.

Rumour has it, Marie Antoinette made potatoes a fashion statement when she gazed through the French countryside wearing potato blossoms in her hair. They soon became all the rage in Paris.



IS THE YEAR OF CANADA'S CENTENNIAL. IT'S ALSO THE FIRST YEAR McDONALD'S FRIES WERE SERVED HERE. COINCIDENCE? WE THINK NOT.



Q: Why are McDonald's fries the same in Paris, France and Paris, Ontario?

A: Because all McDonald's Restaurants use the same unique cooking process to seal in their irresistible flavour. The result is a golden, crispy outside, with a light, fluffy inside.



I'm lovin' it

L' O R É A L

DERMO-EXPERTISE

Revolutionary lift.
Revolutionary results.

REVITALIFT DOUBLE LIFTING

NEW IN JUST ONE STEP:

Extreme Re-Tightening Gel + Anti-Wrinkle Care



1 Dramatically lifts and re-tightens skin instantly.

Ultra-tightening gel with 3 times the concentration of Pro-Tensum®
75% reported skin lifted and tightened**

2 Reduces the appearance of wrinkles immediately.

Anti-wrinkle comfort cream with Nanosomes of Pro-Retinal A
20% fewer surface wrinkles in one week***

#1 ANTI-WRINKLE BRAND WORLDWIDE

L'ORÉAL
PARIS

DERMO-EXPERTISE.
FROM RESEARCH TO BEAUTY.
BECAUSE YOU'RE WORTH IT.

www.lorealparis.co

*Compared to regular L'Oréal Paris anti-wrinkle cream.
**Reported by 75% of women using the ultra-tightening gel.
***Reported by 20% of women using the anti-wrinkle cream.
#1 out of 10 brands.

Erin Davis & Mike Cooper in the morning.

98.1CHFI
Toronto's Late Afternoon



WORLD

The fact that Canada has had to help restore the supposedly reformist government that they had installed shows how much of a challenge Haiti is. "If you're going to make Haiti the poster boy of your program, you'd better be prepared for some reversals and some bad luck," says Andrew Cohen, a Carleton University professor of journalism and international affairs, and author of *White Canada Speaks: How We Lost Our Place in the World*. "If you're going to put Haiti front and centre, you must be prepared for some head-slapping and tough going and possible reversals and disappointment."

Difficult? Yes. **Impossible?** Not necessarily. There is no iron rule of politics or economics (he says Haiti must always be poor and poorly governed). Haiti is half of the island of Hispaniola. The rest is occupied by the Dominican Republic—richer in people, democratic and relatively prosperous. The Dominican Republic's average per capita income is five times that of Haiti, and even higher than China's. Haiti may be impoverished, but its neighbour—a middle-income, developing country—proves that Haiti is not doomed to be that way forever.

Flooding Haiti will be no cakewalk, but as U.S. President John F. Kennedy said about the moon program, "we do these things not because they are easy, but because they are hard." And unlike the space race, this isn't about embarking on one race, open-ended spending project. Canada already has a large aid budget. The question is how it can do the most good.

The good news is that Ottawa is trying to improve its aid program. Cohen sees this as a big opportunity for Canadian foreign policy. "If all the arms of our international relations, [the governments] may be able to make the most progress or not," he says. Cohen argues that while the military will take a very long time to rebuild, because it uses new troops

and buying major new weapons systems can take a decade, aid is a place where change can be made quickly. He sees signs that the will is there. "They've got an account minister in Africa, Canada, in Robert Goodland, the newly appointed head of CIDA, they've got someone who's not from the bureaucracy," Goodland is a former IBM hardware executive with no background in foreign aid. This may not necessarily be a bad thing.

Other signs of progress: the government's new international policy document, released earlier this year, calls for focusing Canadian aid on fewer countries. Beginning in 2010, CIDA plans to deliver two-thirds of its aid to a short list of 25 countries.

It's a step in the right direction, but according to C.D. Howe's Goldbach, no more than a baby step. She says that CIDA's top 25 aid recipients are already receiving 61 per cent of the aid dollar. What's more, the list of 25 so-called "development partners" that Canada intends to concentrate on excludes such little-known countries as Benin, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Niger and 10 other African states, six Asian countries and one or two relatively developed European countries. Ukraine, for instance, doesn't include Haiti.

Why not? According to Alison Carroll, the minister for international co-operation, who is responsible for CIDA, Haiti meets two out of three criteria to be on the 25-country short list: average annual revenues are below \$1,000, and Canada believes it can bring some added value to the table. "In Haiti," says Carroll, "both of those exist. But on the third criteria, the ability on the part of the country to use aid effectively, Haiti isn't there. What capacity hasn't been built yet?" Carroll adds, however, that even if Haiti isn't one of the 25 development or partner, it will receive aid because it is "on our list of fragile and failing states, along with Iraq and Afghanistan."

In fact, Canada's two largest aid programs in 2003-04 were Iraq and Afghanistan—con-



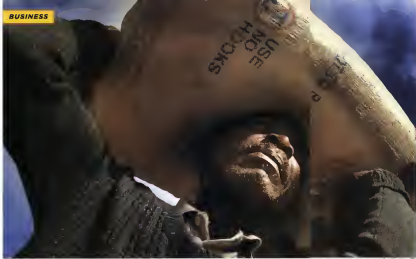
It's the one country where Canada behaves and is treated almost like a superpower

tries that, like Haiti, are failed states and, also like Haiti, aren't on that top 25 list. So what's the problem? All of these aid recipients—the 25 development partners, the failed states, the scores of other poor nations—are worthy. They all need help. And we're giving a little help to all of them. Which leaves Canadian aid policy, despite a dalliance in rhetoric, what it has always been: saying "yes" to everyone.

By delivering a bit to all and saying no to none, the only thing Canada's aid program guarantees is that it will never be enough of a presence in any one country to grow into either public opinion in Canada or significant results overseas. To govern is to choose, and faced with a world of problems, Canada will choose to try to make a very small contribution to each, rather than a big contribution to only a handful. It's never been an effective strategy. ■

BRIEF CASE In the Western Hemisphere's poorest country, only water is unavailable to millions, and raw sewage runs through the streets.





A RAW DEAL

WTO talks for a new global trade pact are on the brink of collapse, and Canada shares the blame

BY ANDREA MANDEL-CAMPBELL • As the autumner convenes of the World Trade Organization in Hong Kong this week, hopes for a new deal on international trade are slipping away. Should the talks fail, the gap between rich and poor will continue to widen, say free trade supporters, fueling geopolitical tensions and possibly even wars. And Canada will bear a big share of the blame, they say, for failing to help ensure the benefits of globalization reach those most in need.

Launched as the Qatar capital of Doha in 2001, this round of talks marks the first time that multilateral negotiations, and especially

dominated by the industrialized world, attempt to address the concerns of the poorest countries. The current impasse centres on agriculture, which represents less than 10 per cent of world trade but accounts for the system's most aggressive distortions. Industrialized countries are spending almost US\$1 billion a day in agricultural support. African countries, unable to compete with the West's financial might, have watched their share of world trade plummet by almost half over the past 30 years. To reverse this trend, the weakest nations desperately need access to Western markets, but the prospects for change

aren't good. And if the talks collapse, as feared, it could raise deep questions about the future of globalization and the WTO itself.

With the Doha round already two years behind a schedule, the meeting of five ministers in Hong Kong represents the "last and best chance," according to WTO director-general Pascal Lamy, to clinch a deal before the U.S. government loses its authority to fast-track trade deals through Congress in July 2007. "Something tangible needs to come out of these talks. It can't be a papering over the cracks exercise," says Ruzan Sully, a leading trade economist at the London School of Economics. "It really is make or break time."

And where is Canada, at this critical moment? Conspicuously absent, critics say. Although it's fourth largest agricultural exporter, and the most trade-dependent country among the G8 industrialized nations, Canada doesn't have a major role in the talks. Yet it is not among the major circle of high-powered negotiators in Geneva, deliberately focus on, say observers, by what some see as a cynical bid to preserve its highly protected dairy, egg

and poultry industries while pushing for free trade in other areas.

In an interview with *Maclean's*, International Trade Minister Jim Peterson said the Doha round was "critical" to "reaching the above-level of agricultural subsidies in the U.S., EU and Japan. We need a level playing field for our producers," he says. "They can compete against the best in the world, but they can't compete against foreign subsidies." And yet Canada has no intention of lowering tariffs of up to 300 per cent on imported butter and cheese that ensure a monopoly for domestic producers. "We believe very strongly

that our farmers should be able to determine how they market their products," Peterson says. This seemingly contradictory position, not going over well with the rest of the WTO. "I've heard it said one of the reasons Canada isn't joining in the major talks is because, when the going gets tough, we decided to defend the status quo rather than push for change," says John Whelan, Canada's former ambassador to the WTO and a senior policy adviser at the law firm of Skidley Austin Brown & Wood in Geneva. "The feeling among delegates is, 'Something got away with us in Canada, but you won't sit at the table.'"

Canada's seat has instead been filled by the Americans, who dismantled their supply-managed dairy industry and have led the global change of international agricultural trade. They, along with the U.S., EU, Israel and India, consider the core group of leading negotiators committed to free trade in the Doha talks. It's a slap in the face for Canada, which less than a decade ago was considered a member of the WTO's de facto leadership. "The Asians are there and we are not. That means it's all up-where Canada fits in the overall scheme of things," says James McGray, an international trade lawyer based in Toronto. "Our lack of credibility is very, very clear right now. We're talking out of both sides of our mouth and the rest of the world is not interested in hearing us anymore."

Trade watchers blame the schizophrenic position on weak political leadership and an ambivalent trade policy commonly enshrined on the altar of domestic politics. While the government may use political points for pushing on tariff and non-tariff barriers in the dairy and poultry industries, say observers, the cost in Canada is enormous—not only in terms of its international reputation and ability to influence global trade liberalization, but also in its ability to compete internationally.

The majority of Canadian farmers—some 90 per cent—rely on global markets to sell their cereals, wheat, beef and pork, and are desperate to improve access to highly protected markets in Europe and Japan. Inflated by a glut of oversupply and generous subsidies that depress world prices, they are forced to compete against lower-cost producers in the landed number of countries with open markets. Grain and oilseed farmers, unable to even meet their costs, lose an estimated \$1.5 billion a year, while wheat scrapers have declined by 60 per cent in the past decade. "We should be right out there, going to the biggest markets on our list," says Larry "Toots" Morrison, executive director of the Canadian Agri-Food Trade Alliance. "Instead, we have one foot on the gas and one foot on the brake."

Supporters of supply management argue that it's precisely because of the protection afforded to many Canadian farmers that Canada should present what it has. The economy never

benefited from concessions it made during the last Uruguay Round of trade talks, they say, and its "Buy Swiss" approach to the distorted global trading environment has cost the country billions of dollars and thousands of jobs, as evidenced by the ongoing beefed beef dispute. "The U.S. speaks out of both sides of its mouth. They say they want open markets and then what they do is protect, protect and protect," says Laurent Pollock, president of Quebec's powerful Union des producteurs agricoles. "Canada wants free trade. Free trade means nothing. We have free trade with the U.S. and it's never been fair."

Whether there is any progress in addressing the shortcomings and distortions in the system depends largely on the U.S. and European Union, whose rich firms support schemes account for half of all agricultural subsidies. In October, the U.S. surprised the



FOOD FIGHTS Any talk of selling farm farm entrance is met with protest in Ottawa

world by offering to dramatically reduce subsidies and tariffs, exposing deep divisions within the 35-country EU. The famously protectionist French called it a "beef bargain." President Jacques Chirac threatened to veto any deal that threatened the U.S. Common Agricultural Policy—a package of high tariffs and government payments that drives most growers to their knees in the U.S.

The EU responded by offering to cut tariffs by almost half, which most still consider inadequate. It also wants to exempt some 150 "sensitive" products, including beef, dairy and sugar, representing eight per cent of what are called "tariff lines." The Americans propose a one per cent exemption. Canadian trade officials wouldn't specify their position, but the U.S.'s Pollock says Canada isn't getting a shopping list 10 per cent from tariff cuts. Canada is looking for exemptions, counter Peterson acknowledges, and will argue "show that it happens in other countries as well."

It's a position, say trade watchers, that undermines the whole point of the Doha Development Round. According to the World Bank, 30 per cent of the benefits derived from free agricultural trade will come from reducing tariffs, and only if those cuts reduce the highest tariffs by at least 75 per cent. If that two

"Something tangible needs to come out of these talks. It really is make or break time."

per cent of off-shore developed countries classified as "emerging," three-quarters of global profits in welfare-enhanced at up to US\$200 million over the next decade—would be lost.

"The purpose of the round is to open up national markets for post-developing countries whose economies rely on exports," says McKinsey. "If Canada is saying, 'You leave us alone and we'll give you more,' why are we going into the negotiations? It's so contrary to the entire thrust of Doha."

Unless there is substantial market access, developing countries have already shown they

are some 250 deals worldwide with another 60 currently being negotiated. Canada, once again, is missing in action, with just three small deals in the past 10 years. Indeed, Macdonald has learned that Paul Martin's Liberal government recently inflated an offer from Brazil that would have granted Canada access to Mercosur, the custom union comprising Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

According to Peterson, Canada is winking to see what happens with the WTO and the Free Trade Area of the Americas, even though the FTAA was recently pronounced "dead" by Venezuelan President Hugo Chávez. "I question what's going on in Ottawa today if we have rejected an offer from Brazil," says Chuck Gaultin, a Toronto-based trade lawyer. "Here we are trying to re-establish our position in the world—and we pass on an opportunity to build a strong link with Brazil."

With one-third of world trade now conducted within preferential agreements, Canada's lack of engagement leaves it without an economic policy shield. That's not an apocalyptic prospect, but it is not an ideal one. At the same time, the world's future could seriously compromise the WTO's dispute settlement process, leaving Canada little recourse when faced with disputes like, for example, when that can't be resolved within the confines of NAFTA. The WTO, its credibility under attack, would find it increasingly difficult to get governments to abide by its rulings.

Doha's failure would only confirm the deepening world "subsidy deep disease of rich countries' commitment to leveling the global playing field. It would also be a victory for growing protectionist sentiment, as evidenced by the collapse of the FTAA in Mercosur, Argentina, last month. The sentiment was bolstered by the most audacious of anti-free trade charges—Chavez's accusation, the disgraced Argentinean soccer star-turned-coach who was convicted of cheating several journalists

"We're talking out of both sides of our mouth, and the world isn't interested in hearing it"

in 1994 with an ex-wife. "The world really does need progress at the WTO," says Thomas Doherty, a senior advisor to the Canadian Council of Chief Executives. "We can't have global abstention blaming our markets by their faults and then say it's impossible of harnessing the common globalizing force because we can't get our act together. It's because we can't run it. Otherwise, the potential for abuse will lead to a tidal wave of discrimination and the anti-globalization trend will be able to come back and say, 'I told you so.'"

How Canada fares when fortunes flip

BY RONALD COOK

For Canada, the change from the riches to the oughts meant that, in economic and financial terms, many of the past decade's economic winners have found places with conspicuous losers.

The winners were the best of times for in-country workers—principally in Ontario, NAFTA, the driving force, falling commodity prices and dropping interest rates meant booming job growth, and strong real incomes. Meanwhile, in Ontario, the easy pickings are over for those who don't have jobs tied to the booming financial markets. The automobile assembly and parts industries are watching assembly (Michigan's fourth largest employer, Delphi, imploded, and GM, its biggest employer, struggle to avoid bankruptcy, while its second-largest employer, Ford, tries to escape being added to that death-wish club. The high-flying losses have taken away

What was great for Ontario wasn't good for the rest of the country—particularly the West. The bursting of the national real estate bubble hit Vancouver and Calgary especially hard. Not only were those cities overbuilt, but the commodity price plunges spawned empty office towers, and slashed homeowners' incomes. These were bad times for tens of thousands of workers and owners in the depths of the north.

Unjust you want a team (and back) up? In such a top, the 1990s weren't a great time for Canadian investors, compared with the record years of returns on U.S. equities. The 50-year Wall Street West over the decade. A world record at the so-called "New frontiers" saw that the greatest players came from California and Texas—and eagerly sent us money where the action was. The soaring U.S. dollar meant that even cautious Canadians (and Europeans) who bought U.S. bonds had currency-adjusted returns greater than their counterparts who owned Canadian and European stocks.

Cheap oil, off and on, put means that Quebec's biggest asset—cheap hydro power—was a welcome convenience to international firms to open plants to serve NAFTA markets, given the province's overarching the advantage: political uncertainty. The close relationship was produced a high of oil, but corporations along the long loss of plant location continued to those Ontario.

Then came the roller coaster—a new field of global economy, and a 1990s-style setback

of oil between winners and losers. The same money flows transformed Calgary into the nation's boom city in Canada's richest province. The election of a business-friendly provincial government and a rising commodity market meant good times again in B.C. Vancouver had seen a once upon a time among the nation's elites. The Greens in Victoria are in a funk, but B.C. is on the rise. Those rising commodity prices have also meant better times across the Prairies, and in Atlantic Canada.

Further south, Quebec's electricity giant, Hydro-Québec, is not only generating strong returns for Hydro-Québec, but the prospect of new manufacturing investment (if the political mind doesn't come back to haunt the province's business development promotion).

Meanwhile, in Ontario, the easy pickings are over for those who don't have jobs tied to the booming financial markets. The automobile assembly and parts industries are watching assembly (Michigan's fourth largest employer, Delphi, imploded, and GM, its biggest employer, struggle to avoid bankruptcy, while its second-largest employer, Ford, tries to escape being added to that death-wish club. The high-flying losses have taken away

partially dependent on suppliers from the U.S. and Quebec. Those suppliers look at the province's locked in shortages for years to come, and must happily absorb how suddenly they will profit from Ontario's new blend of emergency, ideologically and fully Ontario's most vocal Greens' opposition to building plants isn't merely NIMBY (Not in My Backyard), it's BANANA (Just Absolutely Nothing Near Anyone), if not NODP (Not on Planet Earth).

Although the good days for Ontario's work are over, and its businesses face ailing energy costs, there is still sufficient of nature. The stock investors who get such huge returns in a stock economy during the nineties have been losing out in the returns from the best stock market and best currency in the industrial world. The 1990s' heavy weighing in cash and money has meant that Canadians—including Canadian pension funds—have enjoyed an abundance of investment opportunities. Even Canadian bond investors are winners. Canada has one of the best performing bond markets in the world. On the other hand, those Canadians who are not in the government's removal of the foreign content rule for KIM (Korean-made) to

assemblies plants (which Ontario's now owned by Canadian). One of the pharmaceutical plants that are Quebec's pride are Canadian-owned. Many of the nation's automobile plants are government-owned, and there are few opportunities for private capital in the health care industry.

For 1990s out of the TSE, economic growth in Canada is more important than economic

Canada's stock market was a boring underperformer when Ontario was booming, and is now a global cynicure

growth—or lack thereof—in Canada. China, with help from India, effectively gives oil, nickel, copper, lead, zinc, and more on. (It's there are still many who believe that oil prices are really Big Oil or even George W. Bush, and there are others who believe they're by OPEC. But as long as global demand and supply remains in tight balance, the market, not price there, is in charge.)

Thirty-four decades in which China is still



PETER VAN VLIET: Trade minister Peter van Vliet claims Canada's agricultural world

are willing to let their collapse, like they did in the last industrial revolution in Canada in 2001. And even if the French (and the Canadians) can be persuaded to give some ground on agriculture in return for access to Brazil's highly processed industrial goods and services sector, there is no guarantee the least developed countries will sign off on the deal. Poor countries remain fearful of losing the access they already have to rich markets while being unable to take advantage of liberalized access. In many cases, their greatest barriers to trade are internal, the result of lack of infrastructure, weakly bureaucratized and corruption. With so many competing interests, and almost as many countries in the WTO now as in the World Trade Organization, it is nearly impossible to reach agreement on even minor issues, says Sally Kohn, an "infused to be pessimistic." He said, "It's very difficult to see something coming out of the cloud in the long run and perhaps never."

Without a doubt, many more the world trading world will dwindle into a morass of its bilateral trade agreements that after negotiating global supply chains and, more importantly, toward the more powerful countries. China is looking at a three-way tie-up with Japan and South Korea. The latter is aiming to reach 15 deals by 2007. The Australians have recently signed deals with the U.S., Hong Kong and Thailand, and are now negotiating with the Chinese. The Americans have been particularly aggressive, with nine deals completed since 1994 and another half dozen in the works. According to the WTO, there



LOSERS High oil prices and a slowing house have triggered a major job crisis in Ontario's manufacturing sector.

much of Ontario's competitive advantage, even, belongs to U.S. companies will shut their competitive disadvantage—cooperative employees and remain healthy case compared with the badly Oshawa plants get from Canada's core system.

Ontario's competitive advantage has meant that the Big Three has been almost an omnipresence of some of its hottest models—BMW, or Ontario's future, now, US\$100 of Ontario's future. Great gas gardens with something on the order of what global oil costs to the domestic.

With gasoline selling near 90 cents a liter, and natural gas at over \$2.00 a cubic foot, Ontario's debt-laden consumers are finding their discretionary incomes pinched. They can't seem to hold out just those who look at the province's electrical generating power bank the horrendous energy problems will come next summer and thereafter. Because of a decade of focusing on plant construction, Ontario has become

vent to the U.S. market as much. They have been hybridized into the whammy of the west-performing G7's market and a weak one. They're off, even, they do get to hear their money being brought in to CNGC, which may make them feel too rich.

That Canada's stock market was a boring underperformer when Ontario was booming, and is now a global cynicure as Ontario's oil, nickel, copper, lead, zinc, and more on. (It's there are still many who believe that oil prices are really Big Oil or even George W. Bush, and there are others who believe they're by OPEC. But as long as global demand and supply remains in tight balance, the market, not price there, is in charge.)

EMPLOYEE WEEK

because the drivers of the global economy. As an institution in chemistry of Cambridge University, China's demand that, over the past 1,000 years, the combined GDP of China and India was more than 70 per cent of global GDP for all but two centuries. So China is retreating to normal. Which means they will never look like the nation again.

Tough luck, Ontario. For most of the rest of Canada, enjoy the new world.

DON'T MESS WITH THE BOYS FROM VINNIPEC

For up after losing \$400,000 to those who were knocking over their vending machines, a group of workers from Vinnipeg's Vinnipeg Group Ltd. claim to be a minimum wage machine in a downtown apartment block. When a thief broke into the machine, the employees moved in, top-toeing the alleged thief and alerting police. While waiting for the police to arrive, the employees and Vinnipeg's partner Gifford Stone posed for pictures with the suspect.



The new BlackBerry 8700r™ Only at Rogers.

AND YOU THOUGHT YOU COULDN'T BUY TIME.

Introducing the ultimate time-saving device for small business. The BlackBerry 8700r from Rogers. Now instead of racing against time, make the most of it.

- Get high-speed Internet access virtually anywhere.
- View attachments like PowerPoint® and Excel in true format.
- Experience desktop quality images on a vivid LCD screen.
- Get the power of a built-in Intel® processor.
- Go hands-free with Bluetooth® and speakerphone.

Why Rogers is the #1 choice for BlackBerry:

- The new Rogers EDGE network is the largest high-speed wireless data network in Canada.
- Rogers runs on the only network that lets you use your device overseas.*
- Dedicated end-to-end support gets you up and running, and keeps you running smoothly 365 days a year.
- Rogers is committed to bringing you the best selection of the latest time-saving devices.

*TM BlackBerry.

*Visit rogers.com/training for full training details.

ROGERS
Your World Right Now

GO TO ROGERS.COM, 1-866-852-3655, A ROGERS WIRELESS,

ROGERS PLUS OR ROGERS VIDEO STORE FOR DETAILS

IBM and ThinkPad are trademarks and logos are the registered properties of International Business Machines Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, and the Windows logo are the registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Apple, iPod, and the Apple logo are the registered trademarks of Apple Inc. All other trademarks and logos are the property of their respective owners.

Intel® is a trademark or registered trademark of Intel Corporation. Intel® Service Tagged may not appear exactly as shown. *Rogers, Making Things Your Way, Rogers Wireless, Rogers Plus, Rogers Video are trademarks of Rogers Wireless.



How Do You Put a 94mph Fastball into a Stocking?

(very easily)

The Blue Jays Gift Card Makes a Perfect Stocking Stuffer!

Toronto Blue Jays Gift Cards are redeemable for tickets & merchandise. Purchase your Gift Card today and receive a FREE Blue Jays Tugue with purchase.* To receive your tugue, visit bluejays.com and enter your information.

Toronto Blue Jays Gift Cards are available at:
 Shell, Shoppers Drug Mart and 7-Eleven
 For complete list of retailers visit: bluejays.com



*The Blue Jays gift card and Blue Jays Tugue are redeemable for tickets & merchandise. *Offer valid for Blue Jays Tugue only. *Blue Jays gift card is valid for 12 months. *Blue Jays Tugue is valid for 12 months. *Blue Jays gift card is valid for 12 months. *Blue Jays Tugue is valid for 12 months. *Blue Jays gift card is valid for 12 months. *Blue Jays Tugue is valid for 12 months.



SCIENCE

CANADA'S 'CHICKEN LITTLE'

Climatologist David Phillips has touched off some storms of his own

BY JOAN MYNEN • Heavy Council clerk Alec Hurdle is Canada's most powerful civil servant, yet few citizens could pick him out of a lineup. Ditto for deputy ministers and other well-heeled Canadians who actually run the federal government. Turn out one of the few civil servants faces Canadians recognize is that of a relatively low-level bureaucrat: David Phillips, the ubiquitous, amiable weather guru who hollers in with tales of climatic calamities. In fact, recent government commissions, newspapers, focus groups pegged Phillips as one of only two bureaucrats that Canadians thought might be credible faces of the federal government. The other? Asher Israel, general skills trainer, our watchdog in the recent Adams scandal. Heady company for Environment Canada's senior climatologist, a self-described contrarian and maverick policy wonk. "It's kind of a curse," he concedes. "It got paid to talk about the weather."

At 55, one of our national partimes, with Phillips is only too happy to indulge with colorful anecdotes and fascinating weather news. "He's an every reporter's Rolodex," says retired meteorologist Nancy Cudler, Phillips's former supervisor. But for a spark of fire, Phillips might have wound up teaching high school after graduating from the University of Waterloo in 1966 with a geography degree. Instead, climatologist Marie Knutson, who kindly recalls Phillips as an enthusiastic student, helped him land a research position with the weather service. There, he failed in obscurity for 15 years before compiling a study of Canadian cities with the harshest climates. His controversial conclusion that St. John's, Nfld., endures the country's most severe weather spawned a media circus and launched a career.

Phillips' charisma is the reason he's now a poster boy for government credibility, periodically given his confidence last year that Environment Canada's seasonal summer forecast had never been "so wrong for so long for someone of the country." Now, he muses, "People don't always trust weather people. I think it's because I try to take a balanced approach and I'm not part of the political system. I don't



SHAKING THE BIRD • Kyoto has raged when he said a hot summer could be a "drama rehearsal"

I'm apolitical." Lately, though, even the weather has become political with Ottawa's Kyoto commitment to cut greenhouse gas emissions. And Phillips has infuriated critics of Kyoto by suggesting extreme weather. But last summer's prolonged heat wave in Central Canada, could be "a dress rehearsal" for things to come.

"It's time to go around saying he's a senior climatologist, with a B.A. in geography, is an

'For him to say he's a senior climatologist, with a geography B.A., is an outrage'

outrage," grouches Tim Ball, one of Canada's first 78 in climatology, who's lived over half the government's history. "I believe in Kyoto and I've been involved in some of the best science in the world," he says. "The Phillips of the world can't even put their fingers right on the year 77." Ball adds, "We're not absolutely certain about what's going to happen 100 years from now."

It doesn't stop there. "When it comes to really analyzing and understanding the present science of climate change," says retired Environment Canada meteorologist Michael

Rhoades, "It has not, in my opinion, done definitive research." And Kenneth Gwynne, director of Washington's Environment Canada Council, who dubbed Phillips "Canada's very own Chicken Little," calls his annual to worst weather stories "a laundry list of sky-is-falling hysteria." Individual weather events aren't indicators of "change in the overall climate," says the former chief scientist of Vancouver's Fraser Institute. "Climate is 30-year averages of weather."

Phillips says he dwells on the meteorological extremes because that's what interests Canadians, meaning he's careful to say only that extreme weather may be linked to climate change. And he notes that pro-Kyoto scientists scorn him for being too loose, though he believes the circumstantial evidence of global warming is compelling. Cudler writes Environment Canada will exploit Phillips's popularity to push its Kyoto agenda. "If you have someone like a David Phillips and you tie him too closely to one issue, a political issue, you create his own general good. You have to use that talent carefully." Particularly as the 41-year-old is nearing the end of an illustrious career, a prospect that has caused the department some "sleeplessness," Cudler notes. "You just don't replace a David Phillips!" M

WAY OUT THERE

STOP THE SLOPS: KEEP THE FEET ON THE FLOOR

Intermediate value theorem pertains to the principle that any curve drawn from above an axis will follow it most interest if somewhere. At Seattle's Microsoft University, math professor Richard Proulx, working with colleagues in Germany and New Zealand, has used The theorem to create a sure-fire way to level usability tables without chop made of matchboxes or serviettes. Simply rotate the table—at some point all four legs will touch the floor.

I HATE MY FAT LEGS

Body dysmorphic disorder can lead to self-mutilation

BY DANIELO KAPLAN-SHERA • There will come the time our ancestors went living in caves, humans have been concerned with appearance. ("Does he have the muscles to be a good provider?" "Does she have the hips to be a good breeder?") Our criteria for what's appealing may have evolved, but our concern as being attractive hasn't diminished. Research suggests more than 80 per cent of today's men and more than 90 per cent of women are enough about their looks to make an effort to improve them.

But normal self-awareness and basic grooming sometimes descend into delusional self-loathing. The afflicted can develop an addiction to plastic surgery—continually seeking to alter an ever-so-slight or imaginary imperfection. The general condition—identified more than 100 years ago but only now gaining widespread attention—is known as body dysmorphic disorder, or BDD. In extreme cases, patients will self-harm, says Dr. Katherine Phillips, a psychiatrist at Brown Medical School in Providence, R.I., and author

of *Body Dysmorphic Disorder: How to Live with a Perfectly Good Body*.

have an impact. As with all psychiatric disorders, the cause is undoubtedly complex.

According to medical journals, between one and two per cent of the population suffers from some form of the disease. And many need help. Gary Goldsboro, a psychologist at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa, says some are too embarrassed to come forward. "A lot of these people," he adds, "suffer in silence."

The American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* is considered the bible of mental health professionals around the world. Since 1987, it has listed BDD, which it describes as usually arising in adolescence, and a "preoccupation with an imagined defect in appearance."

plexion, and the wrong size or shape of facial features. The genitals, breasts, buttocks, abdomen, arms, hands, feet and legs can also come under unreasonable scrutiny. No body part is safe. (Some people have gone so far as to seek amputations of perfectly good limbs, although this may be a case of BDD being confused with a condition known as apotemnophilia.)

Patients, a number of whom attempt suicide, can spend several hours a day observing over the perceived deficiency. So-and-so is checking themselves in mirrors, three windows, our bathroom, wash faces—anything with a reflective surface. Treatment includes cognitive behavioural therapy and antidepressants (so-called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) to help control obsessive preoccupations and compulsive behaviours.

Some observers suggest that up to 15 per cent of individuals who opt for plastic surgery or dermatological treatment have BDD.

Dr. Ron Murray, president of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons, concedes that high "so my experience," he says. "It's probably much less than one per cent." Dr. Claudio De Louren, a past president of the Canadian Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, notes that repeating BDD patients can be difficult because, as plastic surgery, we wish to make the body subject to surgery. And, as BDD patients have so much shame, "therapy is in the eye of the beholder, but so is the deformity."

"Some hit their teeth with a hammer to try to straighten them out. One did a facelift with a staple gun."

of *The Broken Mirror: Understanding and Treating Body Dysmorphic Disorder*. "One patient, for example, had a razor blade cut open his nose and tried to remove his cartilage nose plate in such a chaotic manner as the shape he wanted his nose to be in," Phillips says. "Another did a facelift with a staple gun. Some will do things like hit their teeth with a hammer to try and straighten them out. These people are desperate."

Not all cases are quite so severe—BDD sufferers are afflicted by a broad range of symptoms. And while no one knows what causes the disorder, there may be a genetic component, says Phillips. Being teased in childhood could also play a role, as might the visual images of women and men as promoted by the media. Perhaps TV shows such as *The Contender*, *Survivor* and *My Diet*, featuring eating and self-improvement through plastic surgery,

and if a slight physical abnormality is present, the person's concern is markedly excessive. As with "the preoccupation causes clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning." Patients' job performance may suffer, or they may go out only at night, for fear someone might see their "hideous" deformity. Coertman complaints include imagined or slight flaws of the face or head—thinning hair, nose, wrinkles, scars, pimple or a flaked chin.

TONICS

WHIPPED CREAM IS GOOD FOR YOU IN THE END

Dairy fats, such as those found in luxurious whipped cream, may actually help protect against colorectal cancer. Swedish researchers have looked at the incidence of that cancer in 64,000 women over 16 years and found that for every two servings of foods rich in dairy fat, the risk of cancer declined 33 per cent. Previously, scientists believed that it was the calcium in dairy-fat-rich products that was protecting people.



You buy
the home
entertainment
system.



We'll help
with the dvd's.

You're richer than you think. It's funny how one purchase can lead to another. That's why for you, money is the best reward and that's why there's the Scotia Moneyback™ VISA® card. A great way to manage your spending and get up to 1% money back on your purchases. Plus, enroll in the ScotiaStar Network™ program and automatically earn additional rebates of up to 10% when you shop or dine at participating merchants. So go shopping and start saving.

Call 1-800-515-3339 today. Or visit your nearest branch or our website.

scotiabank.com/moneyback



Scotiastar
NETWORK

Life. Money. Balance both.™

*1% rebates of the bank of Nova Scotia. ** VISA 1% fee. Use the bank of Nova Scotia. *** Purchase rebates, cash advance, VISA payments, fees and service charges do not qualify for a Scotia Moneyback reward. The program details please consult the Program Terms and Conditions on our website at scotiabank.com. © Bank of Canada approval program.



CLIENTS MOVE from stations to tables and in about two hours have on the 12 free-table dinners

SUPPER SANITY SAVER

Communal assembly kitchens are the newest thing for busy moms who want 'homemade' meals

BY GEMMA KEM • There's money there it also sunny, according to Jenna Rauch Ferguson. The busy systems analyst with three in full-time from that after the birth of her second son in June 2004 (her eldest was then three), she could no longer cope with mealtime. "I had been used to cooking nightly meals for a long time," she says, "but after the second child, I just didn't have the time."

She decided to get organized, and began finding out which foods were good to freeze. Then she saw an item on American TV about a new mass-cooked assembly kitchen. The concept: people go to commercial establishments where there are several food stations equipped with prepped raw ingredients and recipes. Clients travel from station to station, and in about two hours, they have between six to 12 freezable soups or meals. They still get the satisfaction of cooking the food at home. Rauch-Ferguson started adding friends if they would eat such a service, most said they were spending between \$100 and \$150 a month on groceries and were stressed out about cooking. She saw her opportunity, and in May started the business Dinner Revolution.

But first, Rauch-Ferguson did her homework. She went to visit her sister in Houston, where Doreen Daniels, the first commercial assembly kitchen, is located, and the two went to a session. "We both became addicted," recalls Rauch-Ferguson. Back home, she held out sessions in a rented church basement, and through word of mouth the gatherings became so overwhelmed that she decided to

get a loan and renovate a retail space in a mall. She now has about 50 regular clients. "It's the convenience of the old community kitchens," observes Elizabeth Ward, food editor at Canadian Living. "We've seen this for a long time in churches and community centres, where they've been organized to be cost-effective for couples and new immigrants and the elderly."

In the U.S., there are now upwards of 500 commercial assembly kitchens, and according to the Tiny Meal Preparation Association in Ohio—which provides planning guides and start-up kits—another 100 are expected to crop up in 2006. The kitchens already in existence are expected to make \$100,000 million this year. So far, only a handful have been established in Canada, but owners say business is booming. Dinner Express in Calgary has had 300 clients since opening in May, with almost 70 per cent of them returning. Supperworks in Oakville, Ont., started last month and has had six prepped sales worth of \$12,000. The environment at these establishments is casual and stress-free, with background music, tea, coffee and even wine. Prices range from \$145

to \$250 for six to 12 meals, which range from nachos to chik to pork tenderloin with apple ginger sauce.

With 61 per cent of Canadian mothers with children at home now working in the labour force, and only 15 per cent of the country's population maintaining the old dad-as-solo-head-of-household paradigm, it's no wonder assembly kitchens have emerged. "Life has changed because of the dramatic difference in our family structures and our workplaces," says Norm Spinks of the Toronto research firm White Life Research. "Food is one of the first things to go." An increasing number of companies are making arrangements with their employees to make extra food for employees to take home for supper. According to Packaged Facts, a market research group in New York, gourmet ready-to-eat meals are a US\$4.3-billion market.

Bakely Muller, 46, is a member of two in Oakville and a registered nurse who works two jobs at night while taking classes at Mohawk University in Hamilton and volunteering at her children's school. Her husband, Kevin, is a travelling vocationalist at Campbell Soup, so many of the domestic duties fall to her. "Even with everything I do, there are still expectations at home, and meals are just getting by," she says. Recently, she found one of Supperworks' doorknob flyers, and went with her husband and seven other couples. "I was so impressed," she says. "I went as organized with everything chopped up. We could take our time and chat, and I didn't have to go through the agony of wondering what to

"It was so organized with everything chopped up. We could take our time and chat."

make for supper." She also discovered a secondary benefit to assembly kitchens—socializing. Muller has gone several times and plans another outing with her husband in January. "It was something we could do in spare time together as well as with our friends." Most of the owners of the Canadian businesses are busy mothers themselves. "The truth is, it happened out of desperation," says Rauch-Ferguson. "Well, it's not that desperate since call for desperate measures. Or maybe just a dinner revolution."



SO YAKSI SAYS, 'TAKE MY WIFE—PLEASE!'

A Turkish man who ran off with his neighbour's wife last month has offered a bribe—in the form of his own spouse. Mehmet Yaksi kidnapped his friend, a teen labourer named Gungor Gungor, and said he'd take him to his wife. "This takes my wife," Yaksi reportedly said. In court he claims the offer, Gungor says he is prepared to forgive his spouse if she'll return, but so far there's been no response. Also right-appears is Yaksi's former wife.

WANT TO BE RICH @ ANY AGE?

Find out how in the **Rich @ Any Age** special feature from **MoneySense** magazine.



This special feature will include tips and expert advice on how to set yourself up for financial success.

- No-fuss investing
- Saving for education
- Buying a vacation property
- When can I quit?

Rich @ Any Age is brought to you by
Chrysler Canada and Fidelity Investments

Look for this special feature in the December/January issue of **MoneySense** magazine, available on newsstands December 5, 2005.

Or online at www.MoneySense.ca/Rich

MoneySense

MoneySense.ca

Jeep

Fidelity

Desperately seeking suckers

Lawsuits against two U.S. Web dating services allege that singles in search of love may have a new worry: date fraud

BY CATHY BULLI • Last month, two unrelated federal lawsuits were filed in the United States against online dating service providers *wwwmatch.com* and Yahoo! Personals. They allege that the companies defrauded clients to entice them into continuing to use the services. Matthew Ezze, a thirty-two-year-old professional from Orange County, Calif., accuses *wwwmatch.com* of sending him fake romantic emails to push him to a subscription renewal. He alleges that employees read letters and telephone messages to invent the "perfect match." When you, Ezze, says the company hired a beautiful woman named Autumn Marie to go on a date with him. The lawsuit claims that *wwwmatch.com* "employs 'date bait' to lure in hook-worm subscribers," and that these staffers fake dates up to 100 times a month.

Meanwhile, Robert Anthony of Broward County, Fla., alleges that Yahoo! Personals posted false profiles online to entice a pool of attractive, eligible singles. More than once, when his subscription was expiring, Anthony says he received "love mail" from women. After several failed attempts at meeting potential matches, he became suspicious. Anthony accuses Yahoo! Personals of posting the same photo of an attractive woman



person for *wwwmatch.com*. "We have lots of Canadian members, and a lot of Canadian success stories."

Online dating services started up in the late 1990s, since then they have become an increasingly mainstream way of finding romantic matches. The sites attract to traditional dating agencies and personal ads has largely spared Web matchmaking, and hundreds of thousands of singles have turned to the Internet for dates. "The Internet is a viable way to find that handsome prince or princess," says Vancouver sex and relationship

expert Christopher Dr. Pops. But accusations of fraud, among other charges, may jeopardize the love in 'net the damage could spread from *wwwmatch.com* and Yahoo! Personals to the dozens of other online dating companies playing Cops.

For their part, both *wwwmatch.com* and Yahoo! Personals firmly deny the charges. "We can't comment on pending litigation," says Rochelle Adams, a spokeswoman for

Yahoo! Personals. But she says her company "continues its dedication to providing the best online dating experience with safe, fun environment." In its defense, *wwwmatch.com* has acquired a signed affidavit from Autumn Marie, the woman it allegedly hired, swearing she was not an employee of the company. "The lawsuit is completely baseless," asserts Roblin.

There are records of complaints filed against dating agencies in Canada, too. The Ontario Consumer Services Bureau, for instance, says that its complaints of misrepresentation have been reported since January. It won't disclose details, but spokeswoman Jason Whitley says the cases involve disparities between customers' expectations and the service provided. Fraud wouldn't be outside the realm of possibility. And complaints about traditional dating agencies have been reported during approaching "professionalism" has crossed the desk of Anne Hart, director of consumer and general Ontario Better Business Bureau. She says it's safe to assume it could happen with dating websites, too. "I think it might be more prevalent. Online is very much more like."

If the allegations levelled by Ezze and Anthony prove true, online dating companies across the Internet could see growth drop further from already waning levels of around 20 per cent, some period with as high as 100 per cent five years ago. For now, though, Ron remains a hopeful romantic on her date's behalf. "Let's look at it from another angle. If it's true, then the fellow who are being hired to go out with the [singles] are going to make sure it's a good date, right? So then you get a genuine date?" ■

AUSTRIA: BUDOLF WITH YOUR BUM SO BRIGHT

A year after the last spate of sightings from Austrians who were snatched on the beaches by strangers dressed as devils, police have officially approved the Christmas tradition. Residents across the country dress either as Santa and distribute candy to people deemed good, or as devils and give beatings to the "bad." A Vienna police spokesman said that approval of the "beating" are not truly beatings, a tradition for a devil in red cape to cut off evil influences.



GIVE THEM THE GIFT, THAT KEEPS ON GIVING 52 TIMES A YEAR!

Give your friends and family a whole year of insight, information and entertainment that's always a fascinating read.



GIVE THEM A YEAR OF MACLEAN'S

WHY NOT share the lively, authoritative coverage of today's hot issues, events and people – here in Canada, and around the world – that you rely on every week? A subscription to Maclean's is thoughtful, long-lasting, always appreciated, easy to give, and – at special holiday rates – very, very affordable.

Take a moment – right now, before the holiday rush – to send in your gift list... then, if you prefer, put off paying until January!

Your gift will keep right on coming – all through 2006 – for as little as 77¢ a week.

FOR FASTER SERVICE: www.macleans.ca/adgift

OR MAIL: THIS COUPON, ON THE ATTACHED SELF-MAILER CALL: 1-877-885-4438 (Toronto 416-596-5623) FAX: 1-888-315-7747

MORE GIFTS? Go online to www.macleans.ca/adgift, or mail your list to Maclean's, PO Box 140, Stn. Mississauga, ON L5P 1L7.

To maximize each gift, we'll combine your list to personalize and mail. All gifts based on the subscription rate of the gift. A \$10.00 minimum subscription rate is required. A \$10.00 minimum subscription rate is required.

FREE DELIVERY! We'll deliver your gift to your home or office. All gifts based on the subscription rate of the gift. A \$10.00 minimum subscription rate is required. A \$10.00 minimum subscription rate is required.

THE PERFECT GIFT!

YES! Send a year of Maclean's – \$44.95 for the first gift and \$39.95 for each additional gift – to:

MY NAME FIRST NAME _____ LAST NAME _____	
ADDRESS _____ _____ _____	CITY _____ PROV. _____ POSTAL CODE _____
CITY _____ PROV. _____ POSTAL CODE _____	CITY _____ PROV. _____ POSTAL CODE _____
CITY _____ PROV. _____ POSTAL CODE _____	CITY _____ PROV. _____ POSTAL CODE _____

Check here to *Opt-in* or *Opt-out* to receive your mail subscription as these people or:

NO NEED TO SEND ANY MONEY NOW – WE'LL BILL YOU AFTER THE HOLIDAYS!

☐ Charge method: ☐ Please bill me in January
☐ Charge to: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex

CARD NUMBER _____ **EXP. DATE** _____

CITY _____ **PROV.** _____ **POSTAL CODE** _____



MAIL THIS COUPON TO: MACLEAN'S, PO BOX 102, STN. MISSISSAUGA, ON L5P 1L7
 OR CALL: 1-877-885-4438

MACLEAN'S



'I THOUGHT, SIX MOVIES, HOW HARD COULD IT BE BUT WE'RE REALLY OPINIONATED.' —ACTRESS **MOLLY PARKER**, ON JUDGING THE BORSOS FILM P'E WITH DON McKELLAR AND ROBERT LANTOS

1. THAT WAS SOME HONEYMOON

former U.S. ambassador to Canada had been mentioned to appear at a Florida Senate inquiry into a controversial trip that Republican state lawmakers made to Niagara Falls, Ore., and Toronto last summer. The group was flown from Florida, via private jet, by Amco, Ore.-based Magna Entertainment Corp., raising concerns of lobbying under the company owner's racetrack in Florida and in vying for government approval to install slot machines. Magna initially claimed the trip as a donation to the state Republicans, but the party later wrote a check for US\$48,660 to cover the cost (under Florida law, legislators cannot accept gifts of more than US\$100). Colloff, now an executive vice-president with Magna, helped host the group during the trip in Canada. He has said that the trip was planned before

he joined the company in May and did not return our calls.

2. NO JOKE: RICK MORANIS IS A GRAMMY NOMINEE

A couple years ago, **RICH MONTANA**, the Toronto-born R&B musician, notified his Manhattan home via no longer burning to cleanse himself and place his soul in flames. Trained from the hoods of his two coangels, he started leaping out of all country. The sounds brought him back to his days as a DJ with Toronto's **COOL**, when he bravely sang country records. It also recalled the crossover him of his youth. Categorized by **Ray Stevens** as **A Ray**, Monty says by Johnny Cash.

Twenty years, Montana—whose wife is down from cancer 15 years ago—draws him away from co-angels work to spend more time at his me—own writing songs himself, though he never thought he'd end up touring in a band.

tradio Brooklyn. "It kind of happened on a lark," says Morosini. The result, *The Acoustic Cowboy*, featuring 11 off-kilter songs ranging from mellow to bluegrass to rockabilly, just went circled into a Grammy Award nomination for best comedy album. The CD, and only one it includes I Ain't Got's "Nowhere" which took over the tribulations as a man who never seems to leave the house and, apparently, spend quite a bit of time surfing the Internet: "I go online, EPL, Amazon, buy and sell, gilly, laptop, let him ride now!" sings Morosini, to a tune reminiscent of one of their popular crossover hit, I've Been Everywhere.

5. WONDER IF SHE LIKES HONEY?

In an effort to rebound *Winnie the Pooh*, the Walt Disney Company is giving him a girlfriend. In 2003, a yet-unnamed six-year-old mermaid will join the new series, replacing Christopher Robin in hopes of re-emerging the rather stale 84-year-old story. But the change will most likely angust parents, especially when you consider that A.A. Milne wrote the original stories for his son, Christopher Robin Milne.

6. A LITTLE MUSIC TO THEIR EARS

For 120 Canadian teenagers, the chance to hear—**HUGE**—live performance from their—and play directly into their ears—is a technical feat no one else could pull off. “Some of them have never heard music,” says Kasey Bole, technology manager of Sonobase Canada. By listening to the Toronto-based company’s Midrange Personal FM System, small groups of seven hearing-impaired fans have been able to enjoy the Montreal punk rockers’ powerful melodies at each stop on the band’s current cross-Canada tour.

The system channels the sound from the musicians' microphones into a technician's console. A transmitter then beams the music into the audio pack the teens attach to their own hearing aids. "I've never seen what you call them in," says Boire, whose 14-year-old daughter suggested naming it up in the Strategic Plan. "We're

trying to make it cool." The teens selected in a draw at their high schools, also get a discount pass to meet the band. "For one night," says Bore, "these hearing-impaired teenagers are the stars."

7-9. AT LEAST THEY DIDN'T FLIP A COIN

When news mogul PARKER left her Los Angeles home to pursue major network career and became director next summer as one of the fifth annual Whimsical Film Festival, she had no idea who she was getting into. There just so happened to be \$10,000 (bonus prize—named after the late Philip Morris, director of The Gypsy) to use if you arranged a comedy interview. "I thought, six months later how hard could it be?" asked Parker last Oct. 8. Then, instead, she's watching her third season at HBO's *Deadwood*, estimates that the jury spent some eight hours debating its decision. The decisions were split over two

results, washed down by extracellular water and last Lactococcus cultured on bacteria.

Parlier, Lortie and McKellar have all worked with one another on various projects, ranging from Turkish City to *Swimming*. "But we're all really opinionated," says Parlier. "We couldn't come to a decision. So Robert took three pieces of paper and we put our choices down to see if two were the same." After all the good meals and fine wine, the jury gave the honors prize to Lortie on *Lones Land*, a new documentary film. Toronto director Han Saragotti. It's about two Montreal street kids who run out of a floppa on the West Coast—and go through some driving the fuck.

10-12. A DIFFERENT KIND OF HARD COURT

SEHINA and VENUS WILLIAMS have found themselves embodied in a quartet of a different kind.

Event promoters Keith Rhodes and Carol Clarke are using the Williams sisters (and their loud-mouth dad, **MR. BIG**) for millions, claiming that the tennis reporters and their dad accepted as a promise to participate in a 2000 Battle of the Sexes tournament that would have raised \$150 million.

Last week, in a Palm Beach, Fla., court, both sides testified that they knew nothing about the proposed email and that they signed off of their own contracts—adding that their fathers were not their main sponsor and not authorized to sign deals for them. Richard admits to signing a contract, but claimed he didn't negotiate a deal on his behalf. Prosecutors then played a videotape showing him discussing contract details with Clinton—recalling the fact that Richard's company would give US\$1 million before the event took place. "I have never listed it myself as a manager," Richard told the court. "But I am a secret father." ■

tv

(See and slither in *Masterbator*)
P. 61

sports

The actress and her king
P. 62

taste

Chocolate, the new broccoli
P. 63

bazaar

Hotel chic at home
P. 64

help

Why she can't keep it off
P. 65

books

The millennium that never was
P. 66

SOMEONE CALL KARL MARX: the means of production is in the hands of the masses and a revolution is under way

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

Julia Penberth, 30, is a recording producer in her bedroom at age 15. He'd take a cone burger, turn it into a circle and stretch a pair of his mother's pajamas around it to create a buffer between his mouth and the microphone—a "popper wrapper" to keep his comments from becoming "Pom-berrers" would post his music on the Internet and stage a publicist without her hip-hopbling jets. That's how he got into the game. Now 19, this Edisonian rapper who calls himself *Cadence Weapon* is a player. His home mixes, released online, drew attention from major labels such as Def Jam, which hired him to mix a single by rap sensation Lady Sovereign—a 19-year-old Brit who polished her own online mixes into a seven-figure recording contract. Last week, Penberth was getting critical raves for his debut CD, *Awakening Keffibie*, a white-hot mix of dissonant rhythms and the dramatic rhythms. But before releasing, he'll work out of his bedroom: It's the reverse of the Internet. Or to quote Oliver Sacks, a track from *Cadence Weapon*'s new CD: *I don't have a home / But I'm trying to gain prominence / Because I'm living in a house / With a fridge full of condiments.*

The days of making it on the old-fashioned show are long gone. For artists of every stripe, the Internet is an open stage. An independent musician can acquire New York cachet without leaving the house. Through the portal of the home studio, the bedroom is a mouse-click away from the Big Time. And it's a two-way street, transfused by amateur and professional

alike. Using camcorders and computer effects, desktop artist Shane Pelt spent three years in his Virginia basement creating a Jada-space opera called *Revolution* that has been favorably compared with the latest Star Wars blockbuster. And after directing *Children*, a 135-minute movie, established actor-director Don McMiller shot a series of shorts with just a cellphone camera. Then there's the rest of us, desperately turning our lives into film.

Documenting your existence used to be simple. Snap some photos. Keep a diary. Memories would gather dust in an attic, to be dug up by a future generation like late scrolls. But now you can shoot a home movie in high-def nitrate on a small camcorder, cut it with the same software used by Oscar-winning editors, get your son's garage band to lay down a soundtrack, burn the video onto a DVD, post it on a website, send it to friends by e-mail, and premiere it in a product that you record while driving to work. If you happen to pass a phone booth on the way home, as a "transit journalist" you can shoot the accident scene and get it on the evening news. Later, if you're so inclined, you can have an online webcast stream your digital Red Hot to the Internet.

The explosion in digital technology has taken independent home entertainment. We've entered a new age of mass communication that would make Marshall McLuhan's head spin. The medium is not just the message, it's the message. The new medium is you.

To borrow a bit of branding from Apple, the company that has tried to trademark the lower-case verbal process, you could call it

the Revolution. It's not home computers but cell phones, fashion accessories that now want to be cameras, TVs and radios. The iPod has become a sort of symbol of self-expression, a tech fetish that helped to use the media as something else and individually programmed. With a computer and high-speed Internet, anyone can be a musician, a model, a producer, director, editor, recording artist, deity, we say, journalist, porn star. In the jungle gym of digital data, we're all double-jointed.

The Revolution is reversing the engines of the Industrial Revolution, and repairing the means of creative production from the factory to the open hearth of cottage industry. In fact, it could be argued that the home studio is fostering a democratic renaissance in the arts the likes of which we've never seen. Traditionally, the major cultural industries—movies, TV, radio, music and publishing—have been controlled by large corporations. If you wanted to be a filmmaker, journalist or rock star, you had to rely on the system to sponsor your dreams. Media conglomerates still monopolize pop culture, bankrolling production and distribution. But their grip on the creative process is slipping. With affordable pro technology, amateur creative artists can produce and distribute via the Internet. It's a phenomenon that Tyler Cowen, economics professor at Virginia's George Mason University, calls "disintermediation"—a seven-letter word that means erasing the middle ground between producer and consumer.

Comedy's bestest brands, such as *Arrested Development* and *Scrubs*, have become famous without studio or industry support—by



REIMAGINED ARTS REIMAGINED: Penberth (top) and the Blue World show

recording in home studios and building an audience through the Web. Five established talents, from Moby to Leonard Cohen, have deserted professional studios to record their CDs at home. Cohen, in fact, controls every aspect of his product, right down to drawing the album cover set on his Mac. He simply delivers the finished package to Sony, which organizes distribution and publicity.

Meanwhile, armed with inexpensive main-DV camera, a new breed of indie director is challenging the studio practice of firing a clay block with crane trailers to capture a low-frame-rate rebroadcast. The phenomenon of *The*



After *Witch Project* (1999)—a \$60,000 movie that grossed \$14 million—based on some footage from a cheap 16i camcorder and a successful Internet campaign. And last year, filmmaker Jonathan Casanova was critical raves and worldwide distribution for *Survive*, a feature-length memoir that he claims to have made for \$218.33. He cut it entirely on iMovie, the kindergarten-of-strip programs sold with every Apple computer.

Inured of just absorbing commercial media, consumers are creating their own. The technology is called "consumer creation." It's making a booming market in digital movies, camcorders and audio recording gear, plus stacks of self-hosted software to make sure off all. Rick Lamm, senior vice president at Future Shop & Best Buy, says sales of digital technology at the store's stores have more

than doubled since 2001, largely because of new digital imaging and audio products. "With analog film cameras, the industry never shipped much more than 1.5 million a year," says Doug Berchick, imaging product manager at Panasonic Canada. "With digital cameras, we're forecasting about 3.5 million."

More consumers are beginning to demand professional production values. Amateur photographers are buying eight megapixel digital cameras that produce images of magazine-quality resolution. And Sony now has two HD "premium" camcorders (consumer versions of professional cameras)—the hefty HDRFX1 sells for \$5,000, the Sony HDRX1

Instead of just absorbing commercial media, consumers are creating their own



THE NEW REPORT IS YOUR: Webcam images from this year's London bombings and Air France crash in Toronto, top; stills from films at www.povshare.com and other Internet sites

and all Canadian programming by 2007. While the electronics companies flag HD cameras and TVs, there's a burgeoning market for "authoring software"—editing programs that allow users to create sophisticated home productions. Apple's long been the favored brand. With only 4.3 per cent of computer sales, it still has the creative power, offering three tiers of authoring software—basic, advanced and professional.

These programs still make up a small slice of the consumer software market, according to Michael Greenberg, an industry analyst with Jupiter Media. He says the most commonly used authoring application is the one

that lets you crop digital photos and eliminate red eye. But as hobbyists and aspiring pros play with the new media, audio-video editing may become as familiar as word processing. As Greenberg says, "There's no longer this notion of this tremendous technology standing in the way of creative people."

While new software allows novices to bypass the system, as before Hollywood-heavyweights, Steve Soderbergh (*Heavenly Creatures*, *Ocean's 11*), has chosen not to convert out more creative freedoms. At September's Toronto International Film Festival, Soderbergh presented his latest, *Before the Fall* (streamed here), a short film about a family's early days on DVD and cable TV. Reminiscent of the early Dogma films, *Before the Fall* is a vérité style, without lights, makeup or professional actors. It was a mystery set in a doll factory. None of the cast had ever acted before, and one of the leads was a supervisor at a Kentucky Fried Chicken who was discovered at the drive-through.

The new technology "is very appealing," Soderbergh told Maclean's. "It means that someone who has an idea, with not a lot of money, can go and make a really good-looking movie. Now when young filmmakers come up to me and ask if they should go to film school, I say, 'No, you should go to your computer and make a film.'"

Conceding that he could be a bit of a jerk, he adds, "Just because you can make a movie doesn't mean you should. That's like the gentleman's agreement." Soderbergh, who tends to concentrate between glossy studio projects and low-budget experiments, says he'll continue to make Hollywood movies. But as a director shift to digital production, he says, "the studios are going to focus on the bigger, non-driven movies, and everything else will do some independently. If I've got a movie of a certain budget, and it's not big, I'll jump to the bank and make my deal with Comcast or Orion or Lions or AMC. What you're going to see is that more filmmakers will self-distribute."

Meanwhile, no-venue filmmakers are already self-distributing their work online. Websites such as www.povshare.com and www.globe.com offer thousands of videos, from clip art to pop music to their underwear to a clip of not police beating a man. With videos popping up that seem either "six minutes ago" or "four seconds ago," the images keep washing up, a constant thrum of video surf. It's the visual equivalent to blogging—and it's a little creepier in the new form of online video clip podcasting.

The podcast revolution on her computer as July 7—coincidentally, the day of the London bombings, when cellphone photographs made their way to the front pages. This evening I opened my email and up popped a really hot message from Apple announcing I now had free access to more than 3,000 podcasts (downloadable radio shows). The email declared "The Gold as Age" of podcasting had arrived. That didn't sit long. In the digital age, even history has to move at warp speed if it wants to keep up. Overnight, my inbox popped had been infected with new media thousands of little podcasts cranked up as a personal order, complete with top 10 and top 100 lists. The more popular ones, such as *The Al Franken Show* and *CBC's This Week*, are Webisodes from mainstream broadcast. But most are "audio blogs"—produced by amateurs writing at home computers—people just talking to themselves, and to anyone who happens by. It's *Speakers Corner* run rampant.

Reminiscence of the early Internet, the podcast is an anarchic free-for-all, a honeycomb of broadcast broadcast. But former MTV veejay Adam Curry, a.k.a. the Podfather, hopes to create a podcast network and corral it into the mainstream. He also hosts his own daily podcast, a daily-life reality show featuring himself, his wife and daughter. One Curry podcast begins with him getting into his car and driving through San Francisco ("I'm off the Bay Bridge now. Now I want to get off the 4th Street one...") If you think drivers on highways are crazy, you don't want to think about their heading shows.

The lowered spread of podcasting is just one element of how the Web is now a way to make the mass media. As Curry, it's a revolution that's embraced by both the left and the right. The left has embraced it as a tool to make the mass media. As Curry, it's a revolution that's embraced by both the left and the right. The left has embraced it as a tool to make the mass media. As Curry, it's a revolution that's embraced by both the left and the right. The left has embraced it as a tool to make the mass media.

Maybe both. But there does seem a huge gap between corporate and grassroots media. Democracy may have cost Casanova \$138.32 to make, but distributing it took a lot more money and corporate muscle, plus a hand from Guy Van Sant. "The theory," says Casanova, "new editing technology brings film

and buying habits, the Web could save into a surveillance-style marketing tool beyond Orwell's wildest nightmares. With in-Casova logs, Google may look like a warm and cuddly companion, but it's a powerful arbiter. "I love Google," says Anna Scarra, director of the New Media Lab at the Canadian Film Centre, "but there's something a little scary about it... they're going to control a lot of what people see." In fact, plans by Google to scan millions of books for a digital library have alarmed Europeans, who fear it will become another form of U.S. cultural domination—another crisis over the space of "united nations of the world's thought."

So here's the question: Is the new technology forcing a new cultural revolution, or an extension of body snatcher? With the world at our fingertips, are we taking control of our

making to the people, isn't the setting movie or playing in game boards. But the film business is so heavy and cardboard and crazy, with so many political forces getting in the way of who gets to screen what and where? With *Survive*, Casanova gained a measure from two decades of obsessive home movie-making. Now he's working on a feature that will weave an original story out of old footage. "I want to take three films from the 1970s, all starting the same action, reuse them into a whole new narrative—and then perhaps write a new code for the actors, who'll still remain." But all that depends on Casanova's keeping rights to the old films from the studios. And it goes to the heart of what the revolution in self-expression is all about: sampling.

Big hop thrives on sampling. But there's a divide between the underground of authorized



You can have sex while a webcam streams your digital flesh live to the Net

live, or are we being treated as a matrix of creative consumers demanding a revolution with the cocooned in over more sophisticated pods? Maybe both. But there does seem a huge gap between corporate and grassroots media. Democracy may have cost Casanova \$138.32 to make, but distributing it took a lot more money and corporate muscle, plus a hand from Guy Van Sant. "The theory," says Casanova, "new editing technology brings film

or the samples have to be re-mixed nobody can tell. There are gaps who are paid to write TV and listen to the radio for illegal samples."

If open source data and software invite the democratic overthrow of copyright, sampling is the engine of private society that drives it. And it's changing self-expression the way the social revolutions changed manners. In cyber

outland model of the Hollywood studio, the consensus of wisdom is that 20 per cent of the products will be hits. But audiences congregated around hits simply because they're there. Accessible, and easy to find.

However, people do have natural appetites for more diverse fare. And increasingly, they can find it online, where there's almost no limit on shelf space, and shelf life. Audiences explore

the most by little thing."

Here's one contender. A team of young researchers at the Canadian Film Centre's New Media Lab have revisited a gadget called DelsiDelsi, named after the word Japanese teenagers use for the heart flatter you feel when you have a crush on someone. The device consists of a slender bracelet with a fingertip sensor that measures your heartbeat, a transmitter it to an egg-shaped module that glows and vibrates with the pulse. Someone across a room can literally hold your heart in her hands.

The DelsiDelsi could be used as a flirtation device in a singles bar, or be developed as a sex toy that transmitters have broader goals—such as letting a mass audience feel physically connected to the pulse of a live performer. "If you want to think of it as a gimmick, you can," says James Mallard, 26, one of DelsiDelsi's creators. "But imagine feeling Tiger Woods' heartbeat as he makes a putt on the 18th green." His team's mission statement: "We seek to create visceral and transcendental experiences that connect people through technology and a shift in perspectives."

Imagine a dance club where everyone's heartbeat is wired for broadcast, and the disco mixes the amplified tribal pulse into the music. What kind of instant-radiance feedback loop would that create, especially if you fall for in designer drugs? Or how about feeling your lover's heartbeat as a vibrating ring tone on your cell phone? Valentine's Day may never be the same. McLuhan talked about media as extensions of our skin. And his metaphor is taking on more literal truth as technology becomes malleable. The iPod, the camera phone—and the DelsiDelsi—are just the beginning. McLuhan's global village is shuffling into the global topology.

As technology becomes more intimate in scale, the human body will live the last frontier of the globalization. The sites of the body as broadcast medium may sound far-fetched—like something out of David Cronenberg's oeuvre? But there's no reason to assume the new technology won't be incorporated into fashion, grooming, genetic and cosmetic surgery. Inevitably there will come a time when wireless communication will be grafted and amplified as interactive media in the flesh. And McLuhan's playful spin on his famous slogan—the medium is the message—will go deeper than he ever could have imagined. ■

In theory, new editing technology brings filmmaking to the people, so it's like writing novels or playing in garage bands'



GANGNEUNG: SAYS HIS FILM, which he edited on his junior program (above, next page) 2011 32

space, everything is up for grabs. We're filtering, filing and recombining data at an unprecedented rate. It's as if we're all busy editing the world—at least those of us who are hooked up to the IV drip of the Internet. In just a decade or two, we've become a mass culture of file clerks.

In the 1970s, when Google is God, we all behave like tiny search engines, running on the internal combustion of data. Then comes the Web. Cowen admits his daily blog is a rambling jumble of recycled material. "Thematic questions of my past are re-flashing something I've read. I'm parasitic on other people. It's more like being an editor than a writer."

Yet the daily bit of readership is addictive. Cowen says that, like most of his colleagues, he's written scholarly papers that have been read by no more than 20 people. Every day he catches 10,000 readers with his blog (emergeandevolve.com). He talks about crafting each installment as if it were a pop song: "There's always a hook." Just as the Revolution is democratizing music and film, it's overhauling the classical world of academics, and forcing scholars into the spotlight. The whole means of intellectual property, the master of academia, is under assault. "My gut feeling," says Cowen, "is that copyright as we know it will collapse."

When everything's online, the economic and the obscure acquire fresh currency. About a year ago, Wired editor Chris Anderson wrote an article about the "shocking tilt" phenomenon. He explained that the whole genre of low-budget "hits" was manufactured on an

open the long tail market for neo-hits can generate more sales than hits. Peering to Amazon.com, he says large bookstores might carry 130,000 titles. "In more than half of Amazon's book sales come from outside its top 130,000 titles." In other words, the big money is in small products.

That's good news for those looking for obscure action movies, old TV shows, obscure jazz recordings, or work-by-emerging artists. The long tail theory of niche marketing is the consumer's counterpart to the creative industry of self-expression. Epiphany rules. But Anderson stresses that the hit remains an essential component of digital creativity. They focus attention and get consumers through the door, or the gate. Obscure artists get discovered through a cascade of mouse clicks through "similar artists"—the surfer can leapfrog from Britney Spears to No Doubt, to an obscure ska band at Cowen's.

Some of the most revolutionary developments in digital self-expression may be outside traditional media. Just 20 years ago, email, cellphones and iPods were unheard of. So how do we wonder what's



WE'RE STALKING... KATIE HOLMES AND TOM CRUISE'S BABY

One medical doctor worries that baby Cruise may be exposed to infant flu if more continues to visit dad's movie set in China. In a recent *Fourth of July* episode, it's Cruise that everyone is concerned about, after the fetus as a closet and won't come out. And the parents-to-be are in the spotlight from a crowd of the child—they were voted to be the most Hollywood celebrities by *Vibe*. *Time* magazine.



For the first time,
fly to Abu Dhabi direct from Toronto.
Only on Etihad.

Be our guest to the United Arab Emirates.

As of October 31st, 2011 Etihad becomes the first and only airline to fly direct to Abu Dhabi from Toronto. Be treated as a distinguished guest and not as a passenger. For more information please contact your travel agency or Etihad at 855-858-8938.

www.etihadairways.com

الإتihad
ETIHAD
AIRWAYS

To our family, friends and neighbours
who so generously supported the **Scarlett** (B) (A) (L) (L)

\$250,000 net raised on October 28th, 2005

Presenting Sponsor:

TRANSAMERICA

Evening Sponsor:

BROOKFIELD
REAL ESTATE

Signature Sponsors:

SHOPPERS
DRUG MART

HomeLife
REALTY INC.

TD
Bank
Financial
Group

ENRIDGE

Media Sponsors:

NATIONAL POST

MACLENS

WILSON

Multi Table Sponsors:

Cowling Laflour Henderson LLP
Northwood Stephens Private Counsel
Robert & Anne-Marie Canning

Accurite Business Services
AGF Management Limited
ATA Inc.
Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd
Cushman & Wakefield LePage
Deloitte & Touche LLP
FundServ Inc.
McCarthy Tetrault LLP
TD Commercial Banking
Torgs LLP

THANK YOU for helping others live
the fullest lives possible.



Jack & Sue Fleming
John Freeman
The Ross Family
Richard & Janet Lint
John & Hazel Miller
Steven Mazon
Tony & Cathy Viter

Live Auction Sponsors:

Mathew & Ueli Jacobson
Red Air Travel

Special Friends:

Rey & Vanessa Jewellers
Arthur Marney Dance Studio (Royal York)
Almasa Marzouki
Town Photo
Sills by Premier
Avec Placik Fine Linings
Bogdanovic Clothing
Wynne Clark
Privilege Media Group International



LIFE IS IN THE CHALLENGE

WEST PARK
HEALTHCARE CENTRE
FOUNDATION

www.westpark.org

62 BUTTANWOOD AVE., TORONTO, ON M6M 2Z5

416.243.3698

REHABILITATION, COMPLEX CONTINUING AND LONG-TERM CARE



REVEALING BEACHES THE "MAD" For cast including Rydell (below) and, especially, Byers, who plays a competitive waterboarder, the show was doubly

Sun, sand and young sizzle—in Manitoba

Falcon Beach transplants the 90210/Dawson's Creek formula to Lake Winnipeg

BY JOHN IVINS • Although filmed on the shores of Lake Winnipeg, *Falcon Beach* doesn't feel like Canadiana TV. That's because the cast of *Falcon's* are none other than the Hollywood pretty, the producers whom we see high, and the dolls of these media actors are real. So it's no surprise that the U.S. distribution rights for the series—whose debut on Canada was Jan. 5—were snapped up in the spring, when the show was no more than a pilot. "We don't think of it as a Canadiana show," says Tom Zappala, a senior vice president with Disney's ABC Family, which plans to make *Falcon Beach* available to the network's 87 million potential viewers next summer. "The show is smart and touches on some serious issues. And it has a lot of heart in ways that most shows in our genre don't."

Falcon Beach is the latest well-oiled Canadiana teen drama given the green light to compete with *Baywatch* America's show on their turf. Since the wild success of *Baywatch*, 90210 in the '90s, TV producers have recognized the drawing power of a long, attractive soap opera involving attractive teenagers. The series goes to 10: 1998's *Dawson's Creek* and, more recently, *The O.C.* And everyone knows how *Dawson's*. The *New Generation* exploded internationally after the *N* (the television network for teens) introduced Americans to the series in 2003. Hoping to cash in on Canadian content again, The *N* just bought *Wilder*, a drama currently in production for CTV, about a group of sexy young people dealing with a sinister conspiracy in the city.

Unlike *Dawson's*, which had made TV history by seriously tackling serious issues like sexual abuse and incest (such as incest), *Falcon Beach* and made behind-the-scenes, *Falcon Beach* will be more character-driven. The show's theme is power, less witty caustic of *The O.C.* gang, who hang out in a fictional resort

down all summer. "We're not trying to teach people lessons and provide them with closure at the end of every episode," says Steve Byers, who plays Jason, *Falcon Beach's* male lead. "It's always easy to name those other shows where some guy is an alcoholic or some jerk, but the next 'Jennifer Rydell, who plays Tracy, a snobby princess from a wealthy Toronto enclave, finishes her co-star thought: "That's very 90210-ish."

But the series' creators, John Murray and Shannon Part, admit to being heavily influenced by 90210 and *Dawson's Creek*. And though *The O.C.* didn't exist when they con-

"It's crazy in some of those other shows when someone is an alcoholic one week but not the next"

ceived the show in 2003, it's a fair comparison, especially with regards to music. On *The O.C.*, indie bands regularly play at the local bar as part of the show. And in August, the producers of *Falcon Beach* called on Canadian indie groups to send them for possible musical inclusion in one of the first season's episodes. More than 50 bands responded. "We really wanted to discover new bands," says Murray, who last year included songs from *Daft Punk*, *Paper Moon* and *Mat & Ben* in *The O.C.* on the two-hour pilot that aired in January (it will re-air on Dec. 29). "This is also how we approached casting."

The creators focused a lot of attention on developing the show's adult characters—to match the same way as *The O.C.* does—in an effort to attract an older audience. "This is not just a teen show," says Murray. "It's a lot more than that." Sure, but there's no denying the appeal, for all ages, of pretty young things in bathing suits. ■

Falcon Beach is the first major acting gig for many in the cast. But if things take off, especially in the U.S., it's only a matter of time before the stars are posing on teen magazine covers and getting mailed in mail. The creation of this group (apart from making the pilot) took place from June to October on a somewhat secluded stretch of white sand. The band's part, any cast members, was getting used to the Manitoba heat—especially Byers, whose character is competitive waterboarder. "I'd go from being in freezing water to having to come ashore for a close scene," laughs Byers. "And well... there's always a lot."

Working in Manitoba also reduced production costs substantially. "If we shot in Manitoba (outside country north of Toronto) there would have been a lot of permits from locals, and the locations and crew would have been more expensive," says Murray. "The beach in Winnipeg was like our own backlot. Everyone there was great." Except, that is, for one local. "The guy would drive by in his truck looking like he was to escape the blowing," says Byers. "We'd call 'cut' and wait for him to pass. He was the perfect promoter."

The creators focused a lot of attention on developing the show's adult characters—to match the same way as *The O.C.* does—in an effort to attract an older audience. "This is not just a teen show," says Murray. "It's a lot more than that." Sure, but there's no denying the appeal, for all ages, of pretty young things in bathing suits. ■

POLITICAL CAMPAIGN ADE... ACCORDING TO TV

"U2 front man Bono says he's absolutely sure that Paul Martin's foreign aid policy will cost him this election. But can we really trust Bono on this issue? Bono says, 'I have climbed the highest mountains,' when there is no evidence Bono has climbed any mountains. Bono says he 'can't live with or without peace'—a classic Bono line. Bono can't even let his real name—Rino—be on a Guinness. But far by Bono of Paul Martin?—Bono. The Rock Martin Report





ROMANCE: Avery shows off his scores for TV star Carbert (second from the right)

The actress and the agitator

One of the NHL's biggest mouths joins hands with a puck-bunny blogger

BY SHARON DRISCOLL Looking like the poor man's Josh and Becks, actress Elissa Carbert (24) and Los Angeles Kings center Sean Avery recently stroked Toronto's Yorkville neighborhood hand-in-hand. Wearing long water-canoes and baggy slacks (and a goofy far hat in some), they seemed happy enough. Then, using a photographer for a bit of the push. Then an angry Avery flipped him the bird, which was also caught on film. "I was not though, while playing the Maple Leafs, there was little he could do from the ice to keep people from snapping pics of his super-pornie got put string mistake."

Calgary-born Carbert, a popular *Maxim* cover girl, is hockey's hottest super-bunny-guy. Avery, a 20-year-old native of Pickering, Ont., has scored four goals since 2001, as a game against his former team, the Detroit Red Wings. He's recently been kidnapping the goalie's stick and trying to keep his mouth shut. He recently wore three days without talking to the press, and the team leaders took his head on the road with him—all the hopes of winning any championships. So far this season, Avery's been fired for doing his angry Quebecers with his constant about Calgary Dean Gaudet, who is described as "a French-Canadian, a racist, and a racist."

But Carbert's behavior doesn't seem to have hurt him with the ladies. Last year, he dated model Rachel Hunter, who's 11 years his senior and Rod Stewart's ex-wife—and now Carbert, who was engaged to *Tracey Aylus* (Justin Timberlake's best friend/assistant). The screen seems to have a soft spot for bad guys, even "Goldilocks." I know what he did was extremely tragic," she writes on her blog. "It's just that I'm sure he too has been hurt by this whole ordeal. It just pains me to see him have to deal with the non-stop harassment and of course the boobying."

Carbert knows a thing or two about snoring fans. Her 24th birthday, Kim Burrell, was the show's *Adrian* had Carbert as a sidekick to her sister. Her mother plays hockey as does her 14-year-old brother, who plays for his school. On her blog, she says she's got "a friend who plays for Vancouver, and one who plays for the Blue Jackets and another in Phoenix."

'We got a friend who plays for Vancouver, and one who plays for the Blue Jackets and another in Phoenix'

be a good actress—she got her start as a host of Canada's *Popular Mechanics* for kids at age 15, and a *Golden Globe* for playing a girl in the TV movie *Lucy Girl*, and made a better-than-average *sex movie* *The Girl Next Door*—but her TV character became unprofessionally laughable. As the personal dancer in *Shogun*, Kim was laid up and rejected, planned out a diff in a car, arrested twice and taught in an aerial stunt in the woods, where she faced down a racoon-like lion. (Carbert still has a scar from when she got hit by her as she was getting her self covered.)



ONE FOR THE BOOKS... OH, MY ACHING GROIN
The National Hockey League listed no fewer than 24 players out with groin injuries last week, an incidence in what had already become hockey's Season of the Groin Injury. Sports physicians at first blamed the epidemic on conditioning problems, drawing from the NHL's year-long ban on stretching. But now they think players' tender thighs are reacting to a game made faster by rule changes. A stretch, you might say, either way.

In comparison, Avery seems like a bit of a lightweight. When he showed up at the Red Wings training camp, saying he wanted to be known as a dog, Kris Draper replied: "You're not a dog, you're a puppy." Four years later, the NHL center, he's made some enemies, but other players stand up for him, saying his harsh remarks are a strategy to throw off the other team. And as for groin injuries, he doesn't like being photographed with his crotch like Carbert, but he doesn't mind a different view. "The best is going to get even bigger now," said Craig Conway.

Carbert, no doubt, is happy to make an addition to her roster. Her mother plays hockey as does her 14-year-old brother, who plays for his school. On her blog, she says she's got "a friend who plays for Vancouver, and one who plays for the Blue Jackets and another in Phoenix."

Carbert's blog may be light and fluffy, but she brings some needed publicity attention to the NHL. She should be the next Jane James—even if Avery's the Great One.



JUST ADD VITAMINS: A few companies tried the substitution route, taking away what was harmful to burgers, cookies, chips. These products failed

Finally, everything bad is good for you

Junk-food companies are making nutrient-rich versions of foods we love. Who asked them to?

BY LARISSA GEORGE Chocolate has plenty of health benefits. It's a mood booster, for one thing. It triggers endorphins, the natural happy drug in a person's brain. Also, it's versatile, equally well-suited to children and healthies. (I love when my wife prefers it to sex.) But does chocolate contain serious ingredients that could threaten to harm our health?

Ever since researchers began to report the potential cardiovascular benefits of certain types of fats (chocolate is the star), the market has been on among candy manufacturers to increase chocolate as a healthy indulgence. Mars Inc. and the Hershey Co., among others, have spent millions to fund scientific proof that *Finest*—a naturally occurring antioxidant found in cocoa that often goes lost in processing—can lower blood pressure, improve blood flow and ultimately help prevent heart disease. Recently, Mars became the first to tie its results by selling *Good*, a new line of "heart healthy" chocolate bars and chocolate-covered almonds that are rich in flavonols and plant sterols, believed to lower cholesterol.

Though the medicinal powers of flavonols are still widely debated, Mars is promising that for the "unadorned heart health benefits" consumers eat new *CocoaVia* bars a day. The attempt to remake chocolate in broad-stroke is part of a larger, concerted effort among food manufacturers to make junk foods in a more nutritious light. Calbury Shreddies, for example, has launched *PLUS* Plus—up with vitamin C and calcium, with the emphasis on pure "Pepperidge Farm's Golden Crisp" and *Hardy's* chocolate syrup are now available with omega-3 fatty acids. The *Big Dipper* Candy Co. has recently introduced *Spicy Bites*, jelly beans formulated with electrolytes and vitamins C and E.

It's an extension of the nutritional trend, says Rannetta Josephson, a Vancouver-based dietitian and nutrition coach. "Nutrients that have been found to be healthy in their natural forms are now being extracted and added to a wide range of products so that consumers can be reassured." The phenomenon has become a corporate compulsion with outrage and controversy. But now we're seeing it extend to foods with otherwise little or no nutritional value. "It gives people license to believe they can include those products in their diet and feel like they're doing something healthy for their bodies," says Josephson.

In theory, there are two ways to transform junk food from bad to good: either subtract the fat, sugar, chemicals and carbohydrates that make junk food so great, but with only a fraction of the gain. In a way, says Brian Wansink, professor of marketing and nutrition sciences at Cornell University in New York, it's like taking a piece of cake and turning it into a piece of cake. "When we eat food we're heavily preoccupied as being 'fortified' with seven essential vitamins and nutrients." "If you've ever missed a breakfast food plan," he says, "you know that all they do is just spray it on." In other words, you could spray seven essential nutrients onto bacon grease and make the same taste.

Mars recommends we eat two CocoaVia bars a day, the newest in 'heart-healthy' chocolate bars

what was bad about it, or add something that makes it good. In recent years, manufacturers have tried to appeal to health-conscious consumers by taking the substitution route: cutting out fat, sodium or carbohydrates, depending on the diet of the moment. This led to the introduction of everything from the McDonald's *McLean's* Burger to low-fat potato chips and *Adams* cookies. But for the most part, subtraction products have been commercial flops. Consumers just don't seem to want a great-tasting, low-fat, low-calorie food.

Now, through the use of nutritional, junk-food manufacturers are offering all of

the fat, sugar, chemicals and carbohydrates that make junk food so great, but with only a fraction of the gain. In a way, says Brian Wansink, professor of marketing and nutrition sciences at Cornell University in New York, it's like taking a piece of cake and turning it into a piece of cake. "When we eat food we're heavily preoccupied as being 'fortified' with seven essential vitamins and nutrients." "If you've ever missed a breakfast food plan," he says, "you know that all they do is just spray it on." In other words, you could spray seven essential nutrients onto bacon grease and make the same taste.

Still—the apparent marketing play-by-play psychologists like Wansink are skeptical about whether people can wave their hands at their jelly beans. Products such as chocolate, candy and pop are considered "hedonic" foods, he says. That's not what they're "two-toned" foods, which contain real nutrients, junk food products are largely consumed for comfort or pleasure. "We look at them as being one of two sides," says Wansink. "They're either a pleasure or a necessity, giving people a temporary psychological boost—or they're a necessity, a pleasure, positive or relaxed mood."

In an era in which health and fitness have become obsessions, there is something very funny—almost bizarre—about eating a chocolate bar with as many nutrients as a chocolate bar with as many nutrients. The idea that it's healthy or "heart-healthy," rather than being unhealthy, is actually something of a disaster. A person might as well just have as much as a candy bar.



TODAY'S SPECIAL... FISH SAUSAGES

Until the 1970s, fish sausages were a staple in the Japanese diet. They fell out of favor by the 1980s. Now, with most fast-food chains making the Japanese beef burger, the sausages are back, but with more than one flavor: "tuna pizza," "chili pepper," "food wine," and "strawberry salsa." So far it makes a Japanese only taste. One manufacturer tried to market the sausages in the U.S. under the brand "Seafresh Fresh," but with little success.



AT LE GEMMAN HOTEL: Shoppers discover merchandise bargains inside of almost 1,000,000 a year

Gee, I like this hotel room. I'll take it.

Why settle for the towels when you can order up the beds, chairs, even the artwork

BY BARBARA ROBERTS • Sylvia Dorneau laughs when asked if guests at the upscale Le Germain hotels in Ontario and Quebec are here to buy over-the-top bed-and-bath items like the tatted "Le" logo. "People want everything they see," she says. "They buy the beds, the sheets, the pillows, the glasses, the bath and pajama slippers in the breakfast room. We have to tell them, we're not Sean." Far from it: Quebec City-based Dorneau is a vice president of the increasingly high-end Germain Group (five boutique hotels in Toronto, Montreal and Quebec City, and a château in North Hatley, Que.), price range for all properties \$300-\$2,000 a night. She is the woman responsible for marketing much of what guests adore about the glitzy spaces. In quarters now approaching sales of 1,000 a year, And Le Germain is only a drop in the leaky bathtub.

In Manhattan, the W Hotel has opened its own retail space to sell everything from "RUSH" pillows (\$350) to scrunchies. I mean scrunchies (\$200 each). In Boston, the Nine Zeroes hotel (\$80,000 sales and \$1,200 a room, as well as lighting fixtures and probably the odd leather sofa. In Toronto, the arm Draka sells "pretty much anything in the room, from about \$100 to \$1,000. The \$1,000," according to hotel manager Natalie Givoni, "and if guests are bored?" See toys (including something called an "angel hair flogger") at three different price points, starting with the "Tight Askin for \$69. "Everything," says Givoni, "to enhance your experience here—and extend the experience."

All in all, hotel retailers have come a long way from the days when guests needed up on the soap and stole the towels—maybe those with fancy logos like the W's—then and come-out-jazz up their bathroom bathrobes. (Now the \$80 off-dog bed with that covered cat face for \$380?) In fact, it

the U.S. last year, direct-to-consumer hotel merchandising made hotels earn some \$60 million in top-of-room prices, food and drink, and banquet hall rentals. And says Dorneau, "the trend is still exploding." Even for the stand-alone chain in Canada, owners of such grand dames as the Royal York in Toronto and the Hotel Vancouver. "It's a trend we have been watching," says public relations manager Mike Taylor. "We already have our own line of spa products, but we're coming out with a bigger line of merchandise next year."

Some date the desire to buy the ambience of high-end hotels to the late-1990s move

The best part of the deal?
"Hey, where else can you
try a bed—all night—
before you buy it?"

away from big chains, with their mucky muddy floral bedspreads and drapes, to the more personal and highly polished boutiques. Ali Khaja, manager of Toronto's hip Sofia Metropolitan, and New York hotel on regency on San Serrano, once of Studio 54, for starting the trend way back in the mid-'90s. "He created the notion of a hotel as a lifestyle," says Khaja, "not just a place where people come to sleep." And not just ordinary people, either. Khaja fondly recalls playing host to Madonna and her husband, Guy Ritchie, during last fall's film festival, and the couple taking home two pairs of pajamas

made from the Maj'Vedolium (\$120 each).

Whoever began the trend, boutique hotels—at least 150 rooms—set themselves apart from the high-rise crowd, offering high-end decor and giving guests an easy way to have it. Sure, some don't decorate or trading beds and fresh to home Stone Dutching paleo slaps and fabric swatches. Indeed, at the newly renovated Gladstone in Toronto, guests stay in one of a hand-drawn designed rooms (\$175 a night) such as the Faux Nanette by Alyson Mitchell, described in the entire brochure as a "woody retreat where lush, organic, natural, concrete meets Storybook Gardens." It's the art for sale? "We sell art during exhibitions," says marketing and exhibitions manager Cheryl Mitchell, "but if a guest wants a piece of art, we can put them in touch."

In other words, yes. But, here's the best part, at least according to Dorneau. The mark-up is not astronomical. "Make is a big thing for us," she says. "We sell lower prices than our suppliers would charge us for it." So, for \$3,000, say, a Le Germain guest could have a bed frame (plus mattress) and covers (topped with a 200 thread count) and a pair of damask feather pillows. "Easy," she adds, "where else can you try a bed—all night—before you buy it?" And Le Germain does provide some buyer follow-up. "Like when customers call and want to know which pillows go in front," Dorneau says. Still, she adds a note of caution: "When a customer won't fit into the elevator at their condo, buyers may be on their own."



WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT... ANCIENT XMAS TIDINGS

Last week, a 162-year-old commercial Christmas card, one of the first ever produced, was sold at auction in Britain for \$12,266. The hand-colored card, designed in 1843 by the British artist John Colcott Horsley, is one of a handful to have survived from non-mass-produced printing of 1,000. It features a family celebrating around a table. Some of the grandparents are pictured enjoying a glass of wine, a sight that drew the ire of zealous Victorians.

WIN A \$20,000 DIAMOND ADVENTURE



Diamonds –
the ultimate
gift of the
earth

The Maclean's Star is the largest, clearest, most brilliant pear-shaped diamond in the world.
But diamonds are forever.

Maclean's would like to introduce you to some brilliant friends

ENTER NOW: www.macleans.ca/diamondcontest

Diamond Adventure includes:

- Round-trip economy air travel to London, England for 2
- 7 nights accommodations at a 5 star hotel in Central London
- \$1,800 spending money

- Passes to see the most famous diamonds at the world
- PLUS, a \$50,000 loan, polished diamond
- Total prize value \$20,000



MACLEAN'S

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

For full details and rules visit www.macleans.ca/diamondcontest
or call 1-800-363-6666

ROGERS

MON IT HAPPENS: you have a glass of wine to your head and suddenly wine available are looking mighty attractive. That's a reasonable diet.

When it's not on your plate it doesn't count

The Top 10 reasons women have trouble sticking to a diet

BY JULIA MOOREHEAD • In 13 habits that *Miss You Women's* Diet, Elizabeth Somer wants to help with the problem of why women, more than men, can't seem to stick to diets. One of her theories is that women are "diabundant." According to a Gallup poll cited in the book, 90 per cent of women said they had trouble remembering between "pretty good" and "really good" (in accordance to a U.S. Department of Agriculture study of women who said that diets were more difficult). "Somer, a dietitian, blames the disconnect on 'mindless eating' and 'some unexamined subconscious rationalizations' for why women, for instance, think food nibbled is free of calories. 'Do you nibble off your partner's plate?' she asks. Here lies bad habit No. 1.

"Socialized not remembering of individual's plates in restaurants," says a spokesperson from the American Dietetic Association quoted in the book. "But the food on any man's plate that's within 50 feet of a woman is fair game." Somer says that, in some unexamined way, women think their husbands' "frunchies are theirs." "If it wasn't served on a dish, portioned into a bowl, or eaten at the table, it doesn't count."

All of which leads to this bad habit: "Not Eating Himself." "If you think you're doing pretty well, eating right or exercising enough, you have no reason to change or improve," says Somer. She credits a case of *Seinfeld*, a character with a "weight problem," "What if *Seinfeld* thought was a vigorous workout man's even looking a little... The man in *Seinfeld* needs to die, the more likely he is to be able to show what he can do." Somer adds: "Get Real."

Another why women "mess up," says Somer, is by putting other people's needs first. For example, the same food that her husbands or live-in partners, "Even a solitary meal can reach up to 3,000 calories a

day without gaining an ounce, while that man's couch-potato wife might gain weight on as few as 1,000."

In the same category lurks the issue of "Habitual Side to Life Out." Somer cites a study that found one out of seven women indulged in a major obstacle to losing weight. It's called "habitual side to life out." Somer says there are several reasons husbands might want to undermine their partner's attempt to lose weight. "A man might anticipate that this will give up his own or chips and gets

per cent of calories from fat and sugar," notes Somer. "HMS-caused cravings are 'a real phenomenon,'" says Judith Wurtman, a nutritional biochemist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "It's a brain deficiency" rather than a nutritional deficiency. That, says Wurtman, you don't have to eat chocolate or chips to satisfy PMS cravings any more than you have to drink champagne to satisfy them.

Somer also warns of the dangers of holidays and family gatherings where "celebrate our own 'anxiety.'" You may dodge the indulgent at the office party, only to succumb to your husband's plea to have one more piece of homemade pumpkin cheesecake. "Women susceptible to pressure should release ahead of time what to say to deflect temptation, then they should suggest making a contract with your partner whereby you agree not to give each other food gifts or eat food at restaurants."

Breaking up is not a danger and a bad habit No. 9, "Ditching Away Our Wastelands." "When that officer is leaving, but you'll gain weight twice as fast as a vodka tonic or a cosmopolitan," she says. Even more available in the fact that alcohol serves to the appetite. That, combined with its ability to "disrupt our metabolism," and you have the case of denial hypnosis. Christ when ever did around a buffet. "I don't know what got into me. I don't even like macaroni, but then I am with a glass of wine in one hand, pouring down a plate of macaroni with another." "Seinfeld



MOST IMPROVED...CHINCH AND KIM MATHERS

After the rapper wrote a song in which he discussed wanting to slit his wife's throat, after she attempted to commit suicide in 2000, after he showed her the same pain, after she sued him for \$30 million for defamation, after she described him as an idiot letter to their child, Chinch and Mather are looking up. Multi-platinum *Slime Shady* said last week he and Mather are seeking a reconciliation and plan to marry, seven years after their first split-up.

INTERNET GUIDE

Campus Retail Canada

computer.com



Campus Retail Canada is an organization of over 30 campus computer stores across Canada owned and operated by their University or College. Visit campusretail.com for products, promotions and member schools.

DVD rentals delivered to your home. No late fees. No due dates. No hassles.

Renting DVDs online — it just doesn't get any easier than that. With more than 35,000 titles to choose from, Zipco delivers Canada's largest selection of DVDs right to your mailbox.



Unleashed Entertainment

JOIN TODAY AT
www.zip.ca or call
1-800-332-9038



Acid-related diseases are not diseases with underlying biological causes. Many people suffer in silence with their symptoms for far too long because they aren't aware that their condition can be effectively treated.

TREATMENT IS AVAILABLE

For more information visit:
www.youracidreflexhealth.ca

Elliot Lake Retirement Living

Canada's most affordable retirement community
1-800-465-0463



Apartments from \$599/month
Townhouses from \$819/month
Bungalows from \$1249/month

For more information or to book your Discovery Tour call
1-800-465-0463. Visit us on the web at www.retirelifelake.ca

Paul DoGuards, Queen's Counsel
Tax Lawyer (19 Years Experience) Formerly Tax Counsel Canada Revenue Agency (CRA)
1-800-363-9038 / 416-593-4400 / 504-523-0953



TAX AMNESTY

Undeclared income, failure to disclose filing? Inquire: Tax Financial Planning?

Virtual High School



Fully accredited online high school with qualified teachers. Study at home, at school or in another country. Designed for students seeking alternative ways of obtaining OSSD credits or diploma. OSSD credits transfer to Ontario or other Provincial/State schools. Online Curriculum — no textbooks. Rolling enrollment — begin today — set your own schedule — open all year. Enroll today! www.VirtualHighSchool.com
1-519-585-3444

Avoid criminal prosecution and civil penalties. Before you are caught, we can negotiate a no name (anonymous) settlement. Lawyer-client confidentiality assured. Unlike us, your accountant cannot offer this legal protection and can be forced by the CRA to testify against you. A substantially discounted tax settlement is possible.

CAN'T SEE US IN PERSON?

To consult with us on undeclared income and failure to file matters, please go to www.taxamnesty.ca, our secure, encrypted site.

Paul DoGuards, Queen's Counsel
Tax Lawyer (19 Years Experience)
1-800-363-9038 / 416-593-4400 / 504-523-0953



PAY ONLY 2.5% TAX

Outsource internationally to maximize profits. We can help you structure all or part of your business to legally pay only a 2.5% corporate tax. Profits can be repatriated, tax-free to Canada. Alternatively, using the Turks & Caicos, offer or re-pay pay taxes.

www.thefirsttaxsolution.com

BRING YOUR MONEY HOME

Offshore tax havens are no longer safe! The means of trust beneficiaries, trusts, digital money funds, IRIs, benefits and stock traders are being given to the tax police. Before you are contacted we can negotiate a confidential tax settlement for you. Don't have the problem to your family if someone or death intervenes. Ottawa, Toronto, Montreal, Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria and offshore.

UNLIKE US, ACCOUNTANTS CANNOT PROTECT YOUR PRIVACY!

Looking for a Nanny or a Sitter?

Over 1,000 in Greater Area to find a nanny. CanadaNanny.ca
To find a nanny CanadaSitter.ca
1-800-221-7918



Stephen Leacock

Twenty years of part-time Canadian humorist Stephen Leacock, and still going strong. John Sloan, as the disheveled McGill University professor, draws upon Leacock's most body of work "An Evening with Stephen Leacock" is scheduled to air on Bravo Canada on December 23, 2005 at 8:00 PM EST.

For more information www.polsterproductions.com

Does anybody really know what time it is?

BY ABRAHAM VERGARA • Time's arrow, historians like to say, faces in one direction only. Everything that has come, occurred in what has come before. They study chronology the same way historians do, the plot line in the agreed-upon narrative that connects humanity with its past. Most historians don't believe that Jesus Christ was born 2,000 years ago this month, but the almanac that he lived around 25 and died around 30, and that his era was preceded by some ancient cultures and followed by others, the Roman Empire, the Middle Ages and so on, we moderns must. Just about everything we think we understand about how we got here from there is based on that sequence.

some of his. None more so than the events of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta, one of the few events in Ancient Greek history that can be given an exact date. It thereby functions as the hook on which much Greek chronology hangs. The Athenians, however, Thucydides mentions three centuries at the first 35 years of the war, a sequence that scholars have traditionally placed from 431 to 413 BCE. But Fornengo shows that these dates could not have been as Thucydides describes them. According to the mathematician, there is only a span of 18 years of eclipses matching the historian's account occurring from 1096

Fomenko sees Christ, Ancient Greek warriors and medieval knights as living at the same time

Starting as that scenario is, Fomenko doesn't quite—misplace paper napkins, wine, and shippers of Apollo and Zeus, slugging it out in Christian Greece 1,000 years after the birth of Jesus. That's because he also out his eye over the three-hour epilogue that Gospel accounts place at the hour of Christ's death. Fomenko's conclusion? Jesus was crucified in 1075. Those twelve disciples convinced Fomenko of his millennium shift hypothesis, and he began looking over the Middle Ages for proof the era never was. He found it, he says.



FINALLY A BOOK
The Undercover Eater you can never buy a diet theory that makes no sense, and is the worst about the goods. But intriguing topics—over your coffee—in his

For me, the most individuals independently, and through rigorous and effective self-reflection, have emerged with their Russian professors.

In 1996, a 35-year-old professor at Moscow State University, a clearly brilliant man, and he and his followers are respectable mathematicians. But he's not a religious historian. Consider a rhetorical question from Dostoevsky who makes a liberal effort in his book to tip-toe through this sacred minefield in a criminal. Some of his was a brutal rape in 38 CE, and another in 198 that was as bloody as the Gospel claim (though otherwise different), as well as Fyodor's choice in 1870; which he best provides a date for the Crucifixion!

[illegible]

The three wars are dominated more by

prejudicial prejudice and pure ignorance than anything else. The mathematicians refuse to recognize that attaching the numbers correctly isn't worth the Middle Ages again. These simply isn't enough even in scenarios that move sharply from the ancient world to the modern age—think for the present of ethnicities and languages of Europe to emerge. That doesn't mean intuition, which I recall might do focus the search, should be a special kind of Plato's profession, which would be a good idea. But the mathematics simply to smooth out the wobbles in someone's celestial calculations. It may well be that many applications find *laws* are not their domain, and some sequences may need to be defined (if not by a mathematician), a little *haphazardly* might be less *arbitrary*, but it would likely be better on both sides: history is useful in the use of our understanding of ourselves to *reconstruct* or *imagine*.

ON THE WEB Read an excerpt from *The Last Millennium*. www.machpress.com

HARLEQUIN'S BESTSELLERS

Titles		and more below on p. 10
1.	THE PENELOPE by Margaret Atwood	2.00
2.	THE UNDISCOVERED by P.D. James	2.00
3.	THE TIME IN BETWEEN by Daniel Bregman	1.00
4.	A SILENCE OF SNOW AND ASHES by Klara Golek	\$2.00
5.	THE DO VINHO-COELHO by Jose Saramago	\$ 6.25
6.	MYSELF & GEORGE by Adrian Staines	0.10
7.	A PERFECT NIGHT TO GO TO CHINA by David Gutman	0.10
8.	KNIFE OF DEERSON by Robert Jordan	7.00
9.	THE SEA by John Steinbeck	4.00

New Mexico

THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING	6:30
By Jean Dixon	
2 THE BEHINDER BOOK OF BRICS	7:00
By Gwynne Gibbon	
THINK TO THE HARD BY Lynne Truss	7:30
4 FISHBONECHICKS BY Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	8:00
5 TEACHER MAN BY Frank McCourt	8:30
6 THE CITY OF FALLING ANGELS	9:00
By John Burt Foster	
7 THE SECRET MAURSHUHY PAPERS	9:30
By Peter C. Newman	
8 TWO LIVES BY Willem Sofie	
9 MAO THE UNKNOWN STORY	9:30
By Jung Chang and Jon Halliday	
10 THE GOLF HAND FOR CIRCULATION	9:30

Nick, Jess & Holiday Baby



SEPT 2009

The holiday season is a time of teleprompter cheer on TV—or of carol disapprobation by the large crop of plaid-and-argyle celebrities or by pretentious performers who scornfully perjure back-northern seasonal banter upon a defunctified stage to audience. Last year, a U.S. Messianic newswoman actually snafu'd into her words by holiday-themed singing and sloth by Jessica Simpson and Nick LaPena—a couple who were once posing their *It's a Wonderful Life* could've actually seen their way out of an Old Navy commercial. On that dark night, only by the grace of God and very ample grace were I spared from the lurchy grip of the hangover

As the number of television channels has expanded, so too have the ranks of holiday programs. There is not a night in December that does not feature at least one seasonal offering. Also, many of these "inspiring" holiday programs fail as though they were "inspired" primarily by the desire to leverage the profit potential of the lucrative Christmas merchandise market.

Instead, give me the ancient wintereduplicate, the chusmarras made decades ago. So they remain as much a part of my holidays as anticipating waffle pain. There are shows synchronous with early winter evenings in a time when "Ho Ho Ho" was an expression exclusive to Santa Claus, and not better known as the manner in which a rapper describes his desire to meet women in difficult

Today, the stop-motion Rankin/Bass productions of the 1960s and 1970s—while still being promoted anew through DVD releases and merchandising—remain—managed to come across both as timeless, in their spirit and themes, and additionally of their time. *Santa Claus Is Comin' to Town*, for instance, remains as dear as was once an attic in which a disbelieving audience would find no more proof than a strange man in a bright red suit strolling into town and cooing young children to sleep up on his lap and give them a kiss in exchange for a gift. Were this production made today, Kris Kringle would, by the second commercial break, be being chased and lectured by a stop-motion Dr. Phil.

And consider for a moment about how TV executives would react now to a pitch for *The Little Drummer Boy*. OK, as picture this: There's a little boy, right? We see his parents get massacred in the desert. So now he's an orphan. But not just any orphan—a really one I mean, this little is a heart! He's super-around to be successful. C'mon, there's gotta be a musical to

roughly at this point that the person making the pitch would realize he has been removed from the building by security. No one would greet him this holiday season today. Let it be as it once was, joyful and deeply moving, wary about the influence of the gay who put the Christ on Christmas—*Jesus!* Or, as I believe we're supposed to call him now, *Holiday Babe*.

The eternal charms of these and other Karlin-Tan products lie in the absence of the slick, segment-driven version of schmaltz that tends to coast most modern holiday efforts. In *The Year Without a Santa Claus*, the deftly drawn but not overdone old crank, perpetually bemoaning that no one cares about Christmas any longer, in *Knoshing the Red Nosed Reindeer*, among the most popular of these stop-motion specials, Santa is comically grasping onto his dream and back talking the masses, while coldly enforcing an icy spiritism upon any remainder with a glow ing red horkney. In another case it's three musketeers, in intimate scenes in which the lo-

There's no mawkish, 14-minute scene in 'Rudolph' in which the jolly one learns a lesson or grows as a person.

one learns a valuable lesson or grows as a person. At no point does Santa give wisely into the current lens and declare, "Rudolph, you had me at hello."

Sentimentality is a counterproductive characteristic of so much modern "drama." This speaks to an enduring Hollywood dilemma: the belief that more is better and that the more emotion we feel, anything, unless explicitly instructed to feel it, usually in a manner about as subtle as the weeping of flying pan and skull. (Watch the ending of *Murder, My Sweet*—if you can.) The dramatic push and forth between a moody Julia Roberts and a floppy-haired Hugh Grant an easy case that you can practically hear their screaming: "Be touched! Be touched by my ability to touch you on a deeply emotional level!"

Meanwhile, how the Greek/Sid Cluteau's, the 1966 adaptation of the (Dr. Seuss) book, manages in fewer than 10 minutes to reflect

on love, redemption, loneliness, vindictiveness, envy, trust, greed, cowardice and the indisputable fact that dogs look funny wearing fake orders. It is one of the finest pieces of art ever made. There is not a sentimental frame in it. ■



FINALLY A BOOK ABOUT...CAFÉ PRICE GOUGING

The *Discover* columnist QQuint@P2 promises to explore "why you can never buy a decent used car." That argument turns on the theory that markets only work well if buyers and sellers share basic facts, and in the used-car business only the seller knows the truth about the goods. But author Tim Harford also delves on other intriguing topics—probably have coffee shops entice you to hand over your cash—in his witty take on eternal economic verities.

We're not asking you to put someone up tonight.



That's what we do.

This year, thousands of Montréal's homeless will rely on The Old Brewery Mission for life's simple necessities.

Be it for a warm bed, a hot shower or a healthy meal, over 430 people stay at The Mission every night to receive the care they deserve.



THE OLD BREWERY MISSION
MAKE IT YOUR MISSION
1 8 6 6 8 7 0 . 8 0 0 0



Bill Nye the Science Guy, a Gap ad, and a toilet in our compendium of things that make life worth living

NEVER GO HUNGRY AGAIN Just those bread and cheese (or any other tasty sandwich, frankly) in a "bunsling," pop it into a wide-slot toaster and voilà, a crisp five treat. The bag is reusable up to 100 times. (www.bunsling.com)

HOW LOW CAN J LO GO? In a new PETA video game, you can save fuzzy animals before J Lo makes them into a fur coat (www.furtagame.com). Hey, move. Lead J Lo to a reporter, where she'll give an interview and forget all about buying humans.

PULLING OUT THE BIG GUYS They've been trapped to our into CBS's mathematical crime drama *Numbers*? Neither here we—until now. Fall Nye the Science Guy guest star on the show Dec. 16, playing a combinatorial professor who demonstrates a backdraft.

STILL THE KING OF THE OORKS No actor in history has so ruled the sensitive mind character like Anthony Michael Hall in *The Breakfast Club*, *Stuttering*, and *Wired Science*—his movies that are now available together in *The First Pack Movie's* Movie Collection. There's no Seth Cohen without Hall's Farmer Ted.

THIS IS JIM ROCKFORD Even the intently recognizable theme song to the classic series as the New Year's Eve special, there are few detective series as beloved as *The Rockford File* (Season 1 is now on DVD). In the first episode, see James Garner share the screen with a young James Woods and Al Pacino.

THY TRAFFIC-COPS-IN-TRAINING The Discovery Speed Detector helps the cops collect all the evidence they need to keep local street parents in check.



FUNERAL'S LONG LIFE

Arca's first new music video, *Night of the Living Dead*, is a documentary in art installation—featuring only pencil sketches of the band members sprinkled throughout. It's beautiful, creepy, and proves there's no end to the riches on their 2004 debut, *Funeral*.

CAN'T TELL THE CREATURES WITHOUT A PROGRAM

Continuously in print for 25 years, the *Companion to the* by Paul F. Ford—now out in an expanded edition in time for *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* feature film—provides the lowdown on everyone and everything in C.S. Lewis's fantasy world, from *The Deplorable Word* to the courageous talking mouse Ratschep.

ORTYING THE KHAKS

It's the best Gap commercial ever—no celebrities, just a man in a suit, just the clothes, just the clothes and costumes making the most of a Gap store. It's an ad for their new season. By the end, a red bike is popping through the rubble, and all the V-neck sweaters have been ruined. The only barrier is the Gap changed the music from what director Spike Jonze intended. Check out the original at: www.livewyrm.com

IT'LL EVEN WIPE YOUR... Any one who's been to Japan recently knows that fully automatic toilets are all the rage. The Toto Wisteria (for approximately \$1,500) has an automatic lid, air purifier, seat warmer and remote-controlled wand that allows for a totally hands-free cleaning experience.

ADMIT IT Denies, the female Deadhead, has an okay voice—the 11 just a fellow fan-painted rockers Tommy and Mac for the second season of the CBC kids show *Deadheads* on Dec. 22.

A PRESENT FOR YOUR TREE The gift box on the Ever Green Watering System is enough water to keep your tree healthy for up to eight days—so you don't have to keep climbing underneath (watering.com).



FOR THE LOVE OF HEATH Even hardened homophobes (especially hardened homophobes) should see *Heath* (MGM). Ang Lee's epic reclamation of western myth. Co-starring with Jake Gyllenhaal as a cowboy torn by his homosexuality, Heath Ledger has the understated presence of a latter-day James Dean.



BAH JAHQUOUS Kingston, Ont., singer-songwriter Sarah Blower went for a blingy/vibe feel with her latest CD. And the title track, *From Mountain*, may just inspire a new indie music trend: the hyper-jamboree.

LAURA ALBANY

1912-2005

A feisty Swede, she collected owls to cheat death:
'No way did she want an owl to call her name'

Laura Albany, née Lindeholm, was born to a Swedish couple on Jan. 14, 1912, in Red Deer, Alta., the second of four daughters. Her father Andrew, a postman, had been a Mennonite before marrying Hannah Beita, and the couple still spoke Swedish at home. Laura and her sister Inge were very small—Edna and Adele weren't yet born—when the family left Alberta for Revelstoke, B.C., the small mountain town where Laura grew up. She was a special kid: Adele, then, Laura's youngest sister, recalled pecking fruit on the Lindeholms one day when they came across a bush bearing up an apple tree.

Laura stepped a ladder against

him a light step. The couple moved onto the Songhous reserve, where electricity arrived only in 1951 and where Laura was one of just a few white women. She kept these two sunny home diets, polishing every surface, a vegetable garden in the back. Frank hated and hated and Laura, who liked to drive, joined him on camping trips, often bringing along her grandchildren—Dorothy's children, Mike, Fred and Dennis. In 1993, a woman who had been drinking poured into their Ford Explorer, throwing Laura from the vehicle. She walked away with broken ribs. Frank lost a leg and an eye. Ten years later, at their home, someone called an ambulance for Frank, who had developed lung cancer. As he waited in his bed he pointed to the murals pasted on his wall. "Those those damn owls," he said—a reference to the Coast Salish belief that at death the owl calls one's name. Frank died that day. A year later, Dorothy, Laura's daughter, died of breast cancer, aged 51.

In the years that followed, Laura began collecting owls—figurines, photographs, calendars—to exert control over the birds. "No way did she want an owl to call her name," said Mike. Laura smoked Export A cigarettes until the age of 80 and drove until the age of 95 (neighbours got off the road when they saw her coming). When the provincial government threatened recently to remove her licence due to old age, Laura tested to hold on to it, even submitting to lessons. Then she threw the licence away. She would not drive, but not because others said she couldn't. Laura guided and janned everything—including beer and crabs—that

grew in her garden. Pinned with an infestation of grey squirrels, she set traps that would not kill, then held the squirrels down in a bucket of water with a hockey stick, drowning them. A volunteer with the Reindeer—a lodge for women—the paid visits to the aged well into her 90s. "She called them 'the old people,'" said Mike. Many were younger than she.

Eight months ago, Laura fell on the step where she tied her lace, clipping on the wood she still polished to a shine. Later, in hospital, she suffered a heart attack, then stroke. She remained in hospital for months. "At the end, she thought they were conspiring to keep her there forever," said Mike. In July, she returned to the home she had shared with her husband Frank. Laura Albany died on Nov. 23 at age 93.

BY NICHOLAS HOULEL



Jeep

THE NEW 2006 JEEP® COMMANDER. THE MOST CAPABLE 7-PASSENGER 4X4.*

3-Row Stadium Seating | CommandView™ Dual Displays | 5 LTR HEMI® V8 with fuel saving MDS | Third Row Temperature Control
Continue Your Adventure @ Jeep or call 1.800.361.3700

*As a registered trademark of Chrysler Group LLC used under license by General Motors Canada Inc. HEMI® CommandView™ are trademarks of Chrysler Group LLC. ©2005 Chrysler Group LLC.



Microsoft® Office has evolved. Have you? The latest version of Microsoft Office helps you better manage your day. Now you can organize, prioritize, and synthesize information like never before. Simply upgrade to the latest version of Microsoft Office today. Visit microsoft.ca/office/evolve

Microsoft®
Office